## General Discussion on the Budget (contd.)

**Mr. President.**—The House will now resume the general discussion on the budget.

**Mr. A. Eachara Menon** *(Chittur Rural).*—Mr. President, Sir, the Budget has been reviewed by several papers before it was placed before the Finance Committee. If the Government have given the Editors a copy of the Budget before they gave it to the Finance Committee members, I beg to submit that that was not a desirable procedure. If that was not the case, the Government ought to enquire how the budget statement leaked out. Since it has been elaborately dealt with by the papers the speech of the Finance Member when presenting the Budget Estimate was superfluous, and the copy given us has the word 'Confidential' imprinted on it. However the Government have to be congratulated in their success in placing a surplus Budget before the Council. But in that they had to relegate to oblivion the urgent abstract recommendations of the several committees they had constituted. Further it is not an ambitious Budget. It does not provide for ambitious schemes which are remunerative. They could have by undertaking irrigation schemes killed two birds in one shot—they could realise the rate of interest they now get from Banks etc. and they could save the ryots from untold miseries. And there will be this difference then that while the gains of the banks are enjoyed by persons outside the State the gains from the irrigation facilities could be enjoyed by the beloved subjects of His Highness i. e. virtually by the Government itself. The credit of the State is high and therefore money could be raised very easily. Then why is the Government shy in embarking on large schemes which would be solvent and which would help the ryots in keeping the wolf out of doors. I do not deprecate the necessity of caution adumbrated in your speech day before yesterday, but I would that you stiffly adhered to it only after doing what was necessary for Chittur. What makes them hesitate and cook up a surplus budget. Our experience of surplus Budgets tells us that they will be deficit ones by the end of the year. Look for instance the case of the last year's Budget. It is deficit to the tune of 3 lakhs and a half. We are alarmed at surplus budgets for it allows the Government to spend more without previous sanction for purposes for which they have a peculiar predilection. For getting this surplus was the outcome of ignoring the very necessaries of life which call for immediate attention. But the Government was not wanting in imagination. They require about a lakh of

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rupees this year. Papers speak of a Viceregal visit. Would this be the case if we had responsible Government? Certainly not. We would have power then to initiate policies most beneficial to the public at large. As it is, we do not stand with our head on our shoulders. We have no power to adumbrate policies which would bring everlasting progress and enlightenment. May I request the Diwan in you, Sir, to be pleased to try your best and get us before you lay down the reins of Government, full responsibility and opportunity to do good to our countrymen. Our near neighbours have secured self-Government. You have played no little part in securing the same. It does not require such Herculean endeavours for you here to get us what our neighbours, in no way superior to us, enjoy. You had promised us some sort of diarchy about a couple of years ago. We see no signs of its near introduction. We are still in swadling clothes in politics. We might have erred in several ways to excuse yourself for the postponement. You will have by now found us tractable. Forget our errings and lead us on to the right. This will please His Highness which is one of the fundamental duties of your office. We now pray, do us something.

*Rural Reconstruction.* At a time when the whole continent of India is reverberating with methods of rural reconstruction, what has the Government of Cochin done in the matter? They have created a Health Department. They have appointed highly-paid officers under it. They have introduced certain taxes and license fees. What work these officers do it is not their concern to enquire. It is a typical example of the malayalam saying "ആനയെ കൊള്ളാൻപണമുണ്ട്. തോട്ടിവാങ്ങാൻ പണമില്ല". They have enough money to have highly paid officers, but they have no money to have the wherewithal for these persons to work. When the Government is approached with a prayer for improving a tank costing a couple of hundreds of rupees to meet the necessity of washing the body they have no funds for it. If the entertainment of a few coolies are suggested for sanitary purposes, the chorus 'no funds' is voiced out. If a small road, all mud-work, to open the country is asked for, the same chorus 'no funds'. If rural reconstruction does not cover the sanitary programme and improvement of the village parts, what are its objects? This year they have spent 4 lakhs over and above the Budget estimate. Where did this money come from? What necessary works prevailed upon the Government to spend it? Yet the fact remains that they spent 4 lakhs over and above the Budget without going in for a loan. Where

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there is a will there is a way. You willed expenditure for luxuries and you had money. We asked for small sums below Rs. 500 for necessaries. You were in want of funds. You are extravagant in the beautification of Ernakulam. I do not grudge it. It must be done, if not now, some time hence. But, Sir, allow me to put this question to the Government. How enjoyable is she who has her face alone made to look beautiful by painting but has her netherlands unkept and uncared for. The birds of passage, the wayfarers, would be tempted to tarry a while to look at her face but will soon turn away from her by the nauseating effulgence from her other parts. The popular belief when they hear the words 'rural reconstruction' is that they are going to have model villages of the sort they hear Mysore to possess in good number. What they in effect get is the worry caused by the bill collectors. If the Government goes on thus without caring for the dumb millions of the rural folk, it is not worth the salt its officers eat. It is possible only for a Government which is not responsible for the people.

*Agriculture.* The poor agriculturists are immersed in debt. The lot of the cultivator is a terrible one. The improvement of the state of cultivators and peasants in the villages is the burning topic that calls for the attention of every responsible Government. What have our Government done for them? Do they really think that a Land Mortgage Bank is the panacea for all the ills that the agriculturists are suffering from? Does this Bank alleviate the suffering of any, but a few small landholders who are not heavily in debt, who are not agriculturists at all? Do these people from an appreciable part of the debt-ridden? They are only a drop in a bucketful. Does this Bank help in any form cultivating tenants? These are not free from economic depressions. What have the Government done to ameliorate their pitiable state? Have they done anything to finance agriculture—the time-honoured methods of agriculture or anything by the introduction of new crops, new processes and others of the same nature? If the Government is not in a position to give them pecuniary help, can they not assist them with manures and seeds on credit with the loan of improved ploughs and other appliances and by providing them with approaches to the estates they are cultivating; that they may cart the manures to and produce from these. Have the Government embarked on any irrigation project after seeing the loss to which the cultivators were put to for the last two years that the cultivators may be sure in the future at least for getting a return for what they spent in the lands. If the Government

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would only consider awhile, that what these poor peasants spend in the land are borrowed at high rates of interest from exacting moneylenders and if the crops fail these poor people would be lost for ever, they would realise the enormity of their negligence. When we hear that in Bengal in the current year they have 450 seed multiplication and demonstration farms, that Union Boards have for rural uplift 100 pure bred bulls distributed to select persons in ten Districts, we find our Government taking shelter in 'no funds'. We had many a time cried to provide cottage industries for the cultivators without avail. Government must take the initiative so long as the economic condition of the cultivators is very bad. They are the backbone of the country. It is a great consolation to know now, Sir, that the Government are anxious to undertake schemes of rural welfare. The cocoanut farm was not appreciated here because there are equally good cocoanut thopes all over here. This was carrying coal to New-Castle. If the Government had shown the usefulness of manuring etc. in places where there were no good gardens it would have been of immense use to the public of those places. The Government think of this thope as an excellent place for the starting of the reconstruction centre. Why not select a rural place? Is it necessary that it should also be near the Metropolis? How is it of better usefulness to the other parts of the State, say Chittur, than the one in Coimbatore. Are they not His Highness' subjects? The Maharaja who made Cochin what it is had said that the Chittur subjects are more loyal and loving than any other. And this is the treatment we get now at the hands of the Government.

*Scout.* Sir, I find a sum of five thousand rupees budgetted for Boys Scout Establishment and Contingencies. It is a mere waste. I am an ardent supporter of scouting. I was enamoured of the advantages which it afforded in making the youth adventurous, strong in character, selfless, sympathetic in heart, ready to assist in any good cause, patriotic, broad minded and thrifty. What I see in the State is that our scouts in general have very little imbibed these spirits. This supplies a qualification for Scout Masters for recognition by the Head of the Department.

*Retrenchment Committee.* Let us for a moment consider the Committee appointed by the Government to retrench the expenses. There was not one in the Committee who knew Chittur. If they had, they would not have proposed the abolition of the Girl's High School, Chittur. They have not known

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that the public of Chittur have not attained the stage to look with favour a mixed study. But they all have occasion to know that Chittur is very backward in the matter of education —female education in particular. The panacea they have discovered to make this deficiency is either to scrap the institution itself or make it a mixed school. True, they will not have to treat that in future for that disease. My wonder is that the members who went to the other side of the world for support and who enunciated the principle that parents have an inviolable right to give the education and training which they think best for their children have forgotten that these girls of the Chittur School have also parents. Sir, at a time when the Government are enthusiastic to fight illiteracy at any cost, does it stand to reason to withdraw secondary education of a few girls at least who will be the mothers of primary school boys. Do not female education help the progress of diminishing illiteracy? Very lately, that has been found of great use in the progress of rural reconstruction. Such being the case, why is it that the committee proposes the scrapping of the institution? Because they find the strength of the high school classes very poor. And they want these few to go without higher education. For the nearest girls' school to the Chittur Taluq is 45 miles away. They have further not considered what the gain would be by the abolition. If it is coolly considered it will be found that the Sirkar will gain as it at present stands not more than a couple of thousands of rupees. It is also not certain that the strength will not be increased. No high school is self supporting—much less a girls' High School. Is it therefore a cause of heartburn for a State to spend this small sum in addition for trying to further the education of girls of a backward taluk? A study of the report will bring home to you, Sir, that the members of the Committee are not very clear in their minds as to what their proposal in the matter should be. Our only consolation is that the head of the administration has eloquently said elsewhere that the Government would be directed in such matters in the light of the necessity of the times. Re. the purpose for which they were constituted all of them seem to be willing to propose a cut, but they are afraid to strike. It does not speak much of their strength when placed face to face with a grave crisis. When we say a retrenchment is necessary, what we mean is that every officer should be given only a living wage as suits the dignity of the office he holds. Look at the Ministers of Madras. How is it possible, Sir, to endorse the view you expressed in your speech day before yesterday that the salaries of officers in permanent posts should not be reduced,

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when we know that certain posts were assigned the salary they hold now against the expressed opinion of the Special Finance Committee, a Governmental Committee and a Committee consisting of the best experienced intellects of the State. Have the contentment and efficiency of the civil services been cut at the root in British India when they retrenched a few officers—officers who have put in 12 or 13 years service some ten years back. It is all cant, Sir, like head, like tail.

*Federation.* The Diwan President had told this Council in unmistakable terms that he would advise His Highness to join the Federation. He has given wide publicity to this idea of his. He will have cogent reasons for the same which he has succinctly given in his speech. The Federal Committee appointed by the Diwan have agreed to the suggestion. But the people at large wish to know what the advantages and what the disadvantages are by joining or not joining. If this idea was confined solely to us you can pooh-pooh it. But we have the duty of taking the mass with us. You cannot expect them to understand very easily the large problem involved in it and hence the difficulty. And we have to place before the Government the view the masses hold. One condition precedent the Committee have laid down was exemption from payment of subsidy. All the States have put forth this condition. This is a very small matter in comparison with the repercussions the joining the federation would entail. The Federal Committee glibly suggests that in case we have to part with the Harbour we should be entitled to be reimbursed the amount we have spent—a poor consolation. We had ventured on the enterprise of constructing a Harbour. If we had failed would anybody have come forward to pay us what we had spent? No body would have. Therefore, now that we have succeeded in our enterprise it is only just that we should be given the present value of the Harbour based on the usefulness of it. The only immediate advantage one can think of is that by joining the federation we will have a wider sphere of action, whenever our rulers resort to ways which the rulers of Northern Indian States like Nabha, etc. had alleged to have had recourse to regarding the security of person and property of the subjects of the States. Even for that we have not the people's representatives there. By the grace of God our Maharajas had no traces of that disposition hitherto and we see no reason to apprehend the same, in any one of the Royal family. Sir, by the resumption by the Government of the Harbour—by the India Government—and by the entrance into the fourth stage the Harbour has become a major

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port. One of the sources of federal revenue is the customs—true, we have provided safeguards—but no body is going to change the constitution for us. We will be deprived of our customs. The Federal Committee have foreseen this and hence their demand for the amount we had expended in the Harbour also. If such a state should come to pass, have we not lost all the benefits you have secured for us at great exertion and with consummate tact in the settlement of the Harbour question. No body had hitherto given expression to the advantages by joining the Federation. We, poor folk, excluding of course the 9 knowing gentlemen of the Federal Committee require some tuition in the matter. Our kith and kin of British India will be against us in the matter. One great personage of international fame to my request to champion our cause said that it would be against his interest. After due consideration of the pros and cons one is driven to exclaim why join the federation and be contented to play second fiddle to the people outside the State. There is a ray of hope that that contingency will not come off in the near future. The committee want to retain all the jurisdiction the Sirkar now have over the Harbour. The pro-federationists go a step further and say that federation necessarily involved a sacrifice or a surrender of certain elements of Sovereignity on the part of the States. Your reference in your speech day before yesterday of this gives a little consolation to some of us who have only inadequate knowledge of the problem. But I cannot for a moment think that you are treading on sure ground when you say that the entry of Indian States into the scheme of Federation will not act as a drag on the political progress of India. Can the advance party—the Congress party which is prepared for full independence including cessation from England expect any help from the representatives of the Princes in the Federal Assembly? Have not the Princes been playing hitherto to the tune of Imperialistic Briton. We find no change for the better in them. Such being the case, the fear expressed in certain quarters is neither unreasonable nor unfounded. Unless and until the States have a constitution allied to that in British India, have a responsible Government and the people sent their representatives to the Federation, these States will be a drag on the progress of India towards full independence. What if the stipulations, reservations, safeguards which are included in the final memorandum shared the fate of the historical 'scarp of paper'. We abide with forlorn hope.

Sir, I request you to kindly convey the loyal greetings and elicitations of my constituents and myself to His Highness our beloved Maharaja.

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**Mr. Shabdai S. Koder** (*Jews Special*).—Mr. President, Sir, on behalf of my constituency I congratulate you for the extension of the term of your services to the State. I hope, Sir, that the years before you will be years of plenty so that the urgent needs of the urban and rural population of the State may be attended to without any strigence whatever.

In reviewing the budget that is before us I cannot but sound a note of despair when I see the provision made for the improvements of Mattancherry-the most dirty and filthy town in the whole State. The milching cow, to employ the oftquoted words of the Hon'ble Member for Mattancherry North, is again completely drained without leaving a drop of milk to us. When you, Sir, were reviewing in your opening speech on Monday, the various town improvement schemes the Government has for Ernakulam and Trichur, I was thirsting to hear what was in store for Mattancherry but I had to quench my thirst with the drop of Alwaye water. Though it had taken 12 years for the scheme to materialise, I have, nevertheless, to thank the Government for opening the male hospital in Mattancherry early next month but how long, Sir, are we to go along without the other urgent needs of the town being attended to? How long will the Government squeeze us for revenue without giving us adequate returns? I concede, Sir, that it is natural that the Government should devote its attention in town planning to the capital city but beautifying the head alone is not enough, the other parts of the body are as important and sometimes more useful than the head. It is time for the Government to start at new policy towards each town. I suggest, Sir, that after meeting the normal expenditure of the Government, a small portion of the revenue derived from each town be set apart for improving the various amenities of that town. It is against all canons of taxation that Government should gather all revenue from a particular town and pay no heed to the needs of that town for want of funds.

I am glad that the devastating fire in Ernakulam and the discussions we had yesterday have impressed upon the Government the necessity of having an up-to date fire fighting equipment. In this connection I only want to suggest that instead of having separte fire engines for Ernakulam and Mattancherry it will be better and more economical for the two Municipalities to jointly have a fire brigade in readiness for all emergencies and at any hour. The bridge connecting the towns will be completed in two years thus making Willingdon Island the most central place to situate the fire brigade.

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The establishment of a Law College in our State will go to satisfy a long felt want. Speaking of Agriculture I am glad the Government has taken the right step in starting a rural reconstruction centre in our State. Antiquated system must give place to a more highly mechanical system of cultivation. The new roto toiller which enables a more thorough preparation of the soil than the usual type of plough and jacovisation of seeds which quickens and increases the yield are two new inventions which will be a great help to our agriculturists if introduced in our State.

While everything possible is done to ameliorate the condition of the wage earners and middle classes, the problem of the disabled poor and the destitute looms large in our State. I do not know what has happened to the Committee which the Government appointed some time back to look into the question; but whatever be their recommendations I am convinced, Sir, that nothing much can be done without heavy commitments and in view of the inelastic nature of our revenues it is not possible to do anything from our normal receipts. The one and the only way to help these unfortunate people is to start a State lottery of the Goa type and utilise the proceeds to house, clothe and feed the poor of our State preference being given to the disabled ones. In Goa, thanks to these lotteries, hospitals are run, schools are built, free education is imparted and the poor is housed, clothed and fed and looked after in several other ways. If a private agency can do this how much more can an organised Government do? Bigger States than ours have resorted to lotteries even to balance their annual budgets. Then why not we start one to help the poor and the destitute. The duty of the Government is not to pity distress but to relieve it.

Like last year, we are faced with a deficit budget this year too. Our revenues have become inelastic and the dangerous experiment—I mean the prohibition move—that is being tried by the Congress Ministry in Madras, will not only cause distress to thousands of people and the loss of livelihood to ten thousands in the Madras Presidency but also adversly affect our customs revenue by lakhs of rupees. The time is inopportune to launch upon any fresh taxation, and retrenchment can give but little savings. The time has therefore come for the Government to start new schemes of a productive nature. This alone can save us. I pray, Sir, that the few productive schemes now tackled by Government will give sufficient returns to fulfil the pious hope of our Finance Member to have a surplus budget next year.

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**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.** *(Nellayi).*—I have to make a request to you, Sir. When so many others also have to speak, I request you to curtail the fixed time-limit.

**Mr. President.**—The usual time is 20 minutes. But I reduce it to 10 minutes.

**Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty** *(Anthikad.)*—Sir, before dealing with the general policy of the Government I shall examine the budget proper.

No doubt as at present framed the budget shows a slight margin of surplus. But when we probe deeper and see what ways and means have been adopted and employed for arriving at this temporary surplus, we can easily predict that by the time we reach the budget for the year 1115 and the actuals for the year 1113 are arrived at, it will certainly be a deficit one by at least 2 lakhs of rupees. The present nominal surplus has been achieved by the simple device of over estimating the revenue receipts in the various heads and under estimating the expenditure. The increases noticeable are mainly under customs, Railways and Income tax. As regards the Customs revenue it is admitted that there will be a decrease of Rs. 1,25,000 under the revised Harbour Agreement and hence the revised estimate for the current year is only Rs. 19,00,000. Still the Customs Revenue for the next year is anticipated at Rs. 20 lakhs without assigning any reason for the increase. As regards the income from Railways it is stated that during the current year there is a fall in the railway earning and hence the revised estimate is only Rs. 16,60,000 and yet budget estimate is put at Rs. 18 lakhs itself. In the Public Works there is actually a decrease whereas the decrease is shown in the increase Column.

2. Again this nominal surplus will be soon eaten away by the large number of supplementary demands which will be brought soon after the Budget Session. The policy of invoking the aid of supplementary grants should, as a matter of budgetary principle, be deprecated. It not only creates fluctuations in the budget but also indicates the want of the necessary foresight on the part of the framers of the budget.

3. The actuals for the year 1111 and the revised estimate for the financial year have ultimately resulted in deficit and, as I said before, the budget for the next year will also soon follow its immediate predecessors. Sir, the country which continually follows the policy of deficit budgets is certainly on the road to financial ruin and for a small state like ours where the sources of revenue are restricted and inelastic it is highly dangerous

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to have deficit budgets any more. As the revenues are inelastic the only method of balancing the budget is by curtailing and limiting the expenditure within bounds and this can be achieved only by adopting a policy of effecting drastic retrenchment in all possible walks of governmental activity, with due regard to the unavoidable necessities of the nation-building departments. No doubt, an attempt seems to have been made at curtailing expenditure in the various departments by the reduction of a certain percentage of the usual leave allowance. This indeed is a poor attempt at retrenchment. In this connection it is useful to recall the various recommendations and suggestions made by the Hon'ble Members Dr. A. R. Menon and Mr. P. C. Varkey in their respective separate notes in the report of the Retrenchment Committee which have been generally agreed to by the Hon'ble Member, Mr. Ayyappan also. I cannot find my way to agree to the remark made by the committee that the general notion that the administration is top-heavy is found to be untrue on scrutiny. A graduated temporary cut in the salaries of Government servants drawing a monthly pay of above Rs. 60 and a permanent reduction in the salaries of Heads of Departments will certainly effect a substantial saving. The pay of Government officials was lesser before the year 1102, than at present. The Special Finance Committee which was deputed to find out whether expenditure could be reduced curiously enough recommended an increase of pay of certain Government officials and the Government increased it still further. The post war increase of trade and prosperity filled the coffers of the State and also the authorities did not know what to do with a heavy surplus and they devised a method of increasing the expenditure which was at once easy and pleasing, viz., an increase in the salary of their own officials. But, Sir, times have changed, prosperity has vanished and with a dull and unsteady market for agricultural produce we are still struggling against an economic depression. It is only in the fitness of things that Government officials also should shoulder the burden along with the struggling peasantry. Their salaries should always be in keeping with the poverty of the masses. When discussing this topic we have to cast away certain standards which we have been used to, for a long time past. There is generally a notion that the degnity and importance of a person are dependent upon his emoluments or income. This false standard of measuring men according to income is an exploded one. Moreover, a poor State like Cochin in which the average villager in eight out of nine villages is having an absolutely deficit family budget can ill afford to pay such fat salaries to its officials.

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There is no need for precedents either in British India or elsewhere. We have to cut our coats according to our own cloth. The argument that only a small saving can be effected by this means is not acceptable; if small savings can be effected in all directions the aggregate will be a substantial amount for "many a mickle makes a muckle".

Coming to the general policies of the Government, I should say that we have gone low in the estimation of our neighbours and the outside public. The Government have been following a policy of progressive repression of the civil liberties of the citizens. The Newspaper Act which has been thrust into the Statute Book against the express will of the people and their representatives, has successfully gagged the press. As a necessary corollary certain newspapers from outside had to be banned and one cannot say what all papers will be banned in future. In a speech delivered by Mr. Masani recently at Bangalore he remarked that a common feature in almost all Native States was the suppression of civil liberties. The Speaker went on to say that the Press was gagged and the import of certain newspapers from outside was banned. At once I thought he was referring to the Cochin State. Yet the authorities proclaim that they love and even court freedom of opinion and criticism.

Sir, the present budget has to a great extent simply overlooked the needs of the development departments. At a time when many civilised countries have brought into effect free compulsory primary education what is it that we notice in our budget? The growing needs of the primary and secondary education have not only been not amply provided for, but we also find that only a meagre provision of step-motherly nature has been made for primary and secondary education. It seems that there is a Government order making it clear that no more new classes will be given grants and consistent with that absolutely no provision has been made for giving grants-in-aid to new classes. Grants-in-aid have also been reduced to a certain extent. It is an accepted principle the education should be the first charge on the revenues of the State. It is an unpardonable political sin to refuse the sons of the soil the opportunities of primary education. Sir, we should rather go without a couple of A. S. Ps. or a Publicity Officer and things of a like nature than deny the right of primary education to the future citizens of Cochin.

The unanimous and persistent demand of this House almost from the date of its inception for the issue of a Proclamation

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abolishing untouchability has not received any consideration at the hands of the Government. The Temple Entry proclamation in the Sister State of Travancore which has been characterised as the greatest edict since the time of Asoka has had very little influence on the adamentine policy of the Cochin Government. On the other hand, if we closely follow the trend of events here we can see that we have only taken retrograde steps in this direction. Sir, the severest sanctions of the State cannot prevent the mental development of the people and the force of public opinion will eventually prevail over the sword and the bayonet. The present Diwan is a person whose political antecedents embolden me in this belief that he is an active sympathiser in the hopes and aspirations of the backward communities generally and the so-called untouchables in particular. Sir, we hope and pray that your sympathies be soon translated into action by tendering timely advice to His Highness the Maharaja and keep up the fair name and prestige of the Cochin State.

The demand for due representation in the Public Services has been to some extent satisfied by the appointment of the Staff Selection Board and I take this occasion to render thanks to the giver. I might also say that same principles be accepted and actually put into practice in the matter of appointments not coming under the purview of the Staff Selection Board. The demands for proper representation in the services have been slighted by certain politicians as an ugly and ignoble fight for the fishes and loaves of office. But to them my reply is that even the aristocracy and the royalty are snatching at big fishes and loaves of offices. The only difference is that they succeed in getting them quietly whereas others put up a fight and make hubub but do not get them.

Sir, in concluding I would add a word about the responsiveness of the Government to the demands of the peoples' representatives. I am prepared to concede that in certain matters they have been responsive. But in spite of repeated representations no forward step has been taken in matters of vital and far-reaching importance such as constitutional reforms, abolishing untouchability, repealing the Newspaper Act and the like and I hope that in future these questions will be taken up and tackled with boldness and statesmanship.

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എ. ശങ്കുണ്ണി *(Nominated)*.— സർ, ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് സമ്മേളനത്തെപ്പറ്റി അല്പം പറയുവാൻ മുതിരിട്ടാ എനിക്ക ഈ മഹൽസദസ്സിൽവെച്ച് ആദ്യമായി ഓർമ്മയിൽ വരുന്നത് ഈ തല

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

സ്ഥാന നഗരത്തിന്റെ ഏറ്റവും , വടക്കെ അതൃത്തിയിൽ റെയിൽവേ ലൈനിന്റെ ഒരു ഭാഗത്തു സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്ന "ഷൺമുഖപുരത്തിലെ" ആബാലവൃദ്ധം വാലന്മാർ തങ്ങളുടെ എല്ലാവരുടേയും അന്നദാതാവായ പൊന്നുതമ്പുരാൻ തിരുസന്നിധിയിൽവച്ചു് അവിടത്തെ ഏഴുപത്തഞ്ചാമത്തെ ആട്ടത്തിരുനാൾ പ്രമാണിച്ചു് പാടിയ മംഗളാശംസയിലെ "വാർദ്ധകത്തീരത്തിലെ സായൂജ്യാവലിമെല്ലെ, പ്രാപ്തനാം സചിവൻ താൻ പ്രതിഭവേട്ടയാടി, താവക പാദത്തിങ്കൽവച്ചു കൈകൂപ്പുന്നതു ഭൂപതേ! ഞങ്ങൾക്കതിഭക്തി തുന്നിലാലയം" എന്ന ചിത്രീകരണത്തെയാണു്. ഈ ആത്മഗാനത്തിന്റെ അനന്തര ഫലമായി എന്നു തോന്നുന്നു മാവു്, സർ, അവിടേക്കു് ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലെ പ്രധാന സചിവസ്ഥാനം മൂന്നുകൊല്ലത്തേക്കുകൂടി നീട്ടി ഞങ്ങളെയെല്ലാം സംരക്ഷിക്കുവാൻ കല്പിച്ചതിൽ അഖിലസാരജ്ഞനായി ആത്മതേജസ്സാൽ പരിവൃതനായിരിക്കുന്ന ആ പൊന്നുതിരുമേനിയോടു അകം അഴിഞ്ഞ ഭക്തിസന്തോഷത്തേയും, അനിതരസാധാരണമായ ഈ ഭാഗ്യത്തിനു ഈ പുരുഷായുസ്സിൽ അക്ഷരംപ്രതി സാത്ഥനായിത്തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്ന അവിടത്തോടു് അനുമോദനത്തേയും ഞാൻ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്ന ഒട്ടേറെ ജനസഞ്ചയത്തിന്റെ പേരിൽ ഇവിടെ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

സാമ്രാജ്യ വിചിന്തനക്കുപോലും വിധേയരായ രാഷ്ട്രീയ ധുരന്ധരന്മാരും കുശാഗ്ര ബുദ്ധികളും ഈ സഭസ്സിനെ അലങ്കരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായി ഞാൻ കാണുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് ക്ലേശകരമായതയേയും പ്രായോഗികമായ കർമ്മമർമ്മജ്ഞതയേയും അവരുടെ നിരീക്ഷണാശക്തിയിൽ പെടുത്തിയുംകൊണ്ടു് അല്പം ചില സംഗതികളെ ഇവിടെ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ.

എനിക്കു് ആദ്യമായി ഇവിടെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു് ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിനും ഇവിടത്തെ് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനും മേന്മയേയും പെരുമയേയും വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു് പര്യാപ്തമായ മത്സ്യവകുപ്പിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണു്. അതു് ഈ നാട്ടിലെ കോശസ്ഥിതിയെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും പുറമെ തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയേയും കുറെ പരിഹരിച്ചു് ഫാക്കുതൊഴിലാളികളുടെ ഇടയിൽ വരുന്ന ഇവിടത്തെ മത്സ്യഭക്ഷകളിൽ പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു് സാധുക്കൾക്കു ആഹാരലബ്ധി ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതായിരിക്കും. കൃഷി വകുപ്പിനും കാഷ്ടികോല്പന്നങ്ങളുടെ സമൃദ്ധിക്കും അതിനു് സാരമായ സംബന്ധമുള്ളതാകുന്നു. സമ്പന്നന്മാർക്കും സുഖികൾക്കും അതിരസവും, ഫലഭൂയിഷ്ഠവുമായ വിഭവങ്ങളെ നിഷ്പ്രയാസം പ്രദാനംചെയ്യാൻ അതിനു സാധിക്കും. പ്രദർശനാലയങ്ങളേയും പ്രഭുമന്ദിരങ്ങളേയും മോടിയാംവണ്ണം അലങ്കരിക്കുവാൻ അതിനു് അർഹതയുള്ളതുമാകുന്നു. കരകൌശലശാല്കികൾക്കു് ഈ വകുപ്പിന്റെ കൈത്തൊഴിൽ വിഭാഗത്തോടു് കൂടുതൽ പ്രതിപത്തിയുണ്ടെന്നു് പ്രസിദ്ധവുമാണെന്നു് മാത്രമല്ല ചക്രവർത്തി, വൈസ്രോയി, ഗവർണർ മുതലായ രാജകീയ മഹാപുരുഷന്മാരുടെ മേശപ്പുറത്തു ഡിന്നർ സമയത്തു ഇതിലെ വിശിഷ്ടാംശങ്ങൾക്കു സ്ഥാനമാനങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ ഈ വകുപ്പു എത്രകണ്ടു ഓജസ്സിൽ ഇരിക്കേണ്ട ഒന്നാണെന്നു പറയേണ്ടതില്ലല്ലൊ.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ആദ്യവതാരമാക്കിയാണ് ഹിന്ദുക്കൾ മത്സ്യത്തെ അഭിസംബോധനം ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നത്. അനവധി ഗുണങ്ങളുടെ വിളനിലമായ ഈ ജന്തുക്കൾ ആഴമേറിയ അണ്ണവത്തിൽ കുടികൊണ്ട് മനുഷ്യനുവേണ്ടി എന്നതോന്നുമാറ് ഒന്നിൽനിന്ന ബഹുസഹസ്രങ്ങളേയും ചിലപ്പോൾ ലക്ഷങ്ങളേയും ഉല്പാദിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ആയതുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനെ ബോധിപ്പിക്കുന്നത് ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേക ശ്രദ്ധയെടുക്കണമെന്നാണ്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൻറെ മിക്ക പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും ഈ വകുപ്പിൻറെ വളർച്ചക്കു യോജിക്കുന്ന കായലുകൾക്കും കോളുകൾക്കും പുറമേ ധാരാളം സൌകര്യസ്ഥലങ്ങളുമുണ്ട്. ഇവയെയെല്ലാം വേണ്ടപോലെ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച് ഒരു മത്സ്യഗംഗയെ പ്രവഹിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടത് ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൻെറ കർത്തവ്യമാണ്. ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒരു ഗംഗയുണ്ടായാൽ ആയതിന് തടസ്ഥം കൂടാതെ ഒഴുകിപ്പോകുവാൻ പാറിയതായ പൂഞ്ചോലകളും താവളങ്ങളും ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്ന പ്രകൃതിതന്നെ ദാനംചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കും ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്ന ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ കർത്തവ്യബോധം വേണ്ടതാണെന്നുംകൂടി ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിച്ചുംകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതായി എനിക്കു തോന്നിപോകുന്നു. ഈ മത്സ്യഗംഗയുടെ നിരന്തരവേളയിൽ അതു തുകിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഗാനശകലങ്ങളുടെ കമനീയതയിലും രാജ്യത്തിൻറെ ഭരണക്രമപരിപുഷ്ടിയും പ്രാഭവവും സംക്ഷിപ്തമായിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്ന രാഷ്ട്രീയ ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാർ സിദ്ധാന്തിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടല്ലോ. ഈ മാനദണ്ഡത്തെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തി ഇന്ന് മുന്നാണിയിൽ നാം കാണുന്ന എല്ലാ സാമ്രാജ്യശക്തികളേയും ഒന്നു നോക്കിയാൽ ഇതു് അക്ഷരംപ്രതി ശരിയാണെന്നു കാണാം. ജർമ്മനി, ജപ്പാൻ, യുണൈറഡ് സ്റ്റേറ്സ്, ഗ്രേറ്റ്ബ്രിട്ടൻ മുതലായ രാജ്യങ്ങളുടെ കോശസ്ഥിതി അവിടത്തെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു താരാലാലിച്ച് ആലാവിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ഈ പ്രത്യേക ഗംഗയുടെ പ്രശസ്തമായ സാന്നിദ്ധ്യം പ്രധാന കാരണമായി ഗണിക്കേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ മത്സ്യഗംഗയായി സമർത്ഥിക്കുന്നതു മത്സ്യവകുപ്പിനെയാണല്ലൊ. സർ, ഈ വകുപ്പിൽ നാം കൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പു് ഇവിടത്തെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൻെറ magic wand-ൽനിന്നും ഒരു വിശിഷ്ടമായ സ്പർശനം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആയതിൻെറ ജീവിതം തണുത്തു് ഇന്ന് ഇവിടത്തെ fishery ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻെറ അധികാരദാഹത്തിലും അലസതയിലും വാടിയും പോയിരിക്കുന്ന എന്നാണ് എനിക്കു തോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നതു്. കല്ലായിക്കിടക്കുന്ന ഈ അഹല്യയ്ക്ക് ഇനി എന്നാണ് ശാപമോക്ഷം ഉണ്ടാകേണ്ടതു് എന്നു ഞാനറിയുന്നില്ല. ശ്രീരാമൻെറ വനവാസം തുടങ്ങീട്ട് കൊല്ലം മൂന്നു കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇനിയെങ്കിലും അവിടത്തെ പാദപങ്കേരുഹം ഈ ശിലയായി കിടക്കുന്ന യോഷയുടെ മെയ്മേൽ സ്പർശിക്കുമാറാകണമെന്ന എനിക്കു പ്രത്യേകമായി അഭ്യർത്ഥനയുള്ളതാകുന്നു. അവിടത്തെ സ്പർശനംമാത്രം മതി ഇവളുടെ സായൂജ്യത്തിനെന്ന് ഞാൻ വിനീതബുദ്ധ്യാ ധൈര്യപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. ഈ പാദസ്പർശനം ആലോചിക്കുന്നതായാൽ അടിസ്ഥാനരഹിതമല്ലാത്ത ഒന്നാണെന്നു കൂടി കൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പു് ഇവിടത്തെ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ദിവാൻസ് പ്രോസീഡിംഗ്സിൽനിന്ന് തെളിയുന്നുണ്ട്. അതിങ്ങിനെയാണ്:

"a large field for such action exists in Cochin, where the possibilities of the development of fisheries as well as industries as relating to fish products, may without exaggeration be considered as extensive and out of proportion to the area of population of the State. Its 50 miles of sea-board which presents extremely interesting features and affords numerous facilities so far as the marine fisheries are concerned, its extensive backwaters and the peculiar configuration of the country which give magnificient lagoons, inland lakes and waterways covering nearly 30 sq. miles of the country, its geographical position and trade facilites and lastly its large fish-eating populations which is reported to be 75 per cent of the total population as well as several castes and clans forming an appreciable percentage which depend for their livelihood on the various forms of fishing industries practised for centuries are all circumstances which appear to the Durbar as extremely favourable for the introduction of a policy of state encouragement as well as control and of measures that are likely to inspire these industries with new life in which the bulk and prosperity of so large a population must mainly depend. That the Durbar had been alive to a sense of responsibility in the matter and have from time to time discussed the question will appear from the summary given as para 4 of the Diwan's Proceedings of October 1907 and they now consider that time has come when systematic action may be taken so far as it is legitimate and expedient to encourage as well as to control the fisheries of the State."

ഇതെ കൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പ് ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒരു പ്രൊസീഡിംഗ്സ് ഉണ്ടാകാമെങ്കിൽ ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതിക്കു അതു എങ്ങിനെ ആയിരിക്കണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതിൽ നല്ലതു ഇവിടെ സന്നിഹിതരായിരിക്കുന്ന ബഹുമാന്യന്മാർ വിചാരിക്കുന്നതുതന്നെയാണ് ഉത്തമമായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. മേജർ പോർട്ടിലേക്കും റയിൽവെ വിസ്താരത്തിലേക്കും, കൈത്തൊഴിൽ പ്രസ്ഥാനങ്ങളിലേക്കും ഭൂപണയബാങ്കിലേക്കും ഗ്രാമീണ പുനരുദ്ധാരണത്തിലേക്കും പട്ടണപരിഷ്കാരത്തിലേക്കും ബദ്ധോകനുണനായി ഓടിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ കനകം കൊയ്യുവാൻതക്കതായ മത്സ്യവകുപ്പിനേയും ഒന്ന് എത്തിനോക്കാതിരിക്കയില്ലെന്ന് ഞാൻ ദൃഢമായി വിശ്വസിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലെ ഫിഷറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറിന്റെ നട്ടെല്ലായി ഇപ്പോൾ പ്രധാനമായിനിന്നു പോകുന്നതു് ഇവിടത്തെ വാലന്മാരാണ്. അവരുടെ സമുദായത്തിൽ ഊന്നിയുടമസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ പാഴ്സികളെപോലെയാണ്. ഇവർ ദരിദ്രപ്പെട്ടാൽ സമുദായം തീർച്ചയായും ദരിദ്രപ്പെട്ടുപോകും. പത്തുപന്ത്രണ്ടുകൊല്ലമായി ഊന്നിയുടമസ്ഥന്മാർക്ക് അനുഭവം കുറഞ്ഞുതുടങ്ങീട്ട്. തുടർന്നുപോരുന്നതായ ഈ നഷ്ടം ഹാർബർ പണി ആരംഭത്തോടുകൂടി മൂർദ്ധന്യത്തേയും പ്രാപിച്ചു. ഹാർബർ അത്തിയിൽ റിക്ലമേഷൻ വന്നതുകൊണ്ടും പ്രധാന ചാലിന് ആഴം കുട്ടുകയാൽ ഒഴുക്കിന്റെ ഗതിക്കു സാരമായ വ്യത്യാസം സംഭവിച്ചതുകൊണ്ടുമാണ് ഇങ്ങിനെ വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഹാർബർ അത്തി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

യിൽപെട്ട ഏതാനും ഊന്നികയം അനുഭവശൂന്യത്താൽ ഇപ്പോഠം നി ശ്ശേഷം നശിച്ചുതന്നെ പോയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഡ്രഡ്ജിങ്ങ് ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായി വരുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നില്ക്കുന്ന ഊന്നികയം മത്സ്യബന്ധനത്തിന് ഉപ യോഗ ശൂന്യമായും സംഭവിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഈ നഷ്ടപരിഹാരം ബ ഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവമ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതു technical ആയിട്ടുള്ള നഷ്ടപരിഹാരം മാത്രമാണ്. ജീവിതം പരമ്പര യായി ഈ കൂറികളിൽമാത്രം അർപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ വ്യവസായികളെ ശാസ്ത്രീയമായ ന്യായവാദംകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം മൌനികളാക്കി ദാരിദ്ര്യഗത്ത ത്തിൽ പെടുത്താതിരിക്കുമാറാകണമെന്ന് എനിക്കപേക്ഷയുണ്ട്. ലോ കമൊട്ടുക്കും പ്രശസ്തിയെ പ്രതിഷ്ഠാപനിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു വ്യവ സായത്തിൻെറ ഇണകളായി നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിൽ പാരമ്പര്യരായ ഇവർക്ക് ഇന്നു നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു ദരിദ്രഗായത്രിജപമാണ്. ഇതു വ്യവസായ ത്തിൻെറ പെരുമയ്ക്കു ഒട്ടും യോജിച്ചതല്ലല്ലൊ. ഗവമ്മെൻറിനെ ഇപ്പോ ഠം അഭിമുഖീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു ഹാർബർ അത്യത്തിയിൽപെട്ട മട്ടാഞ്ചേ രി, രാമേശ്വരം എന്നീ വില്ലേജുകളിലെ ഊന്നിക്കായ്മാണ്. ഇവയുടെ ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർ പത്രപംക്തികളിൽ വിലാപംപ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനിടയിൽ അവരുടെ പ്രതിനിധിയെ പുറംതള്ളി ഉടമസ്ഥതയിൽനിന്നും വിരമിക്കു ന്നു. ഒരു പക്ഷെ ഇതു വക്രധാരണപ്രലപനമാകാം; അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഹൃദയ വേദനയുടെ അഗാധതയിൽനിന്നും പുറപ്പെട്ടതായും ഗണിക്കാം. എ ങ്ങിനെയായാലും ഇവർക്ക് സാരമായ സങ്കടമുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു തർക്കമറ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. ആയതുകൊണ്ടു ഇവരുടെ സങ്കടത്തിനു ഒരു തീരുമാ നമുണ്ടാക്കി ഇവരേയും തദ്വാരാ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറിനേയും സുരക്ഷിത മാക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്ന് ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

പബ്ളിക്ക് ഹെൽത്തു മേധാവി അവർകളുടെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിലും എനിക്ക് ഒന്നു രണ്ടു സംഗതികയംകൊണ്ടു വരണമെന്നുണ്ട്. നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളി ൽ ഹോട്ടൽ, ചായക്കട മുതലായ കൂടിൽവ്യവസായങ്ങയം നടത്തുന്ന സ്ഥലത്തോ അതു നടത്തുന്നവർക്കോ ചിലപ്പോഠം സാംക്രമിക രോഗങ്ങ ഠം ബാധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവരായിരിക്കും. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള വ്യവസായികയം നി മിത്തം പൊതുജനങ്ങയം ആപത്തിൽ കുടുങ്ങുന്നതായികണ്ടും കേട്ടും വ രുന്നുണ്ട്. ലൈസൻസു കൊടുക്കുമ്പോഠം ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള കായ്ത്തെ പ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിച്ചു ഉള്ളതായി കണ്ടാൽ അവർക്കു ലൈസൻസു കൊ ടുക്കാതിരിക്കുകയും പുറമെ അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള അപേക്ഷകന്മാർക്കു ലൈ സൻസു കൊടുക്കാൻ പാടുള്ളതല്ലെന്ന് കർശനമായ ഒരു സർക്കുലർ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറിൽനിന്നും പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്.

സോഡാപ്പൊടി, വിനിഗറിൻെറ ഊറൽ, പഴയ കഞ്ഞിവെള്ളം അരിക്കാടി, തേങ്ങാവെള്ളം, കഞ്ഞാവു, കോടാ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ചിപ്പു അ ടക്കാമരക്കുമ്പു കുത്തിപ്പിഴിഞ്ഞ നീരു, പഞ്ചസാര മുതലായവ ചേർത്തു വ്യാജമായി കള്ളിൻെറ അളവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാറുണ്ടെന്ന് അറിയുന്നു. സാമാന്യ ജനങ്ങളും പ്രധാനമായി പുലയരും ഇതു സാധാരണ കുടിക്ക

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ന്നതുകൊണ്ടു രോഗഗ്രസ്തരാകുന്നുണ്ടോവെന്നു സംശയിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനത്തെ മായക്കള്ളിന്റെ നിർമ്മാണം നിറുത്തൽ ചെയ്യുവാൽ ദരിദ്രന്മാരിൽനിന്ന് ഇന്നു ധാരാളമായിക്കാണുന്ന സുഖക്കേടുകൾക്കു സാരമായ കുറവുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു ഞാൻ ചിലപ്പോഴൊക്കെ വിചാരിച്ചുപോകാറുണ്ട്. അയതുകൊണ്ടു ഹെൽത്തു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടി ഈ കാര്യത്തിലും പതിയുന്നതു ഉചിതമായിരിക്കും.

ഉപജീവനാർത്ഥം മത്സ്യബന്ധനംകൊണ്ടു കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടിപോരുന്ന ജനാവലിൽ ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ അപ്രധാന സ്ഥാനത്തെ അർഹിക്കുന്നവരാണു ഇവിടത്തെ വാലന്മാരും അരയന്മാരും. മത്സ്യം ഉണക്കുന്നതിനും, പുഴുങ്ങുന്നതിനും, വിൽക്കുന്നതിനും ചുമത്തിവരുന്ന ലൈസൻസിൽനിന്നും ഇവരെ ഒഴിവാക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. മത്സ്യംപിടിക്കുന്നവർക്കു ഉണക്കുകയും വില്ക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായിവരും. എല്ലുമുറിയെ പണിചെയ്തു പിടിച്ച വഹകൾ പെട്ടവിലയ്ക്കു വില്ക്കുവാൻ അവർക്കു നിവൃത്തിയാകുന്നതല്ല. അയതുകൊണ്ടു മത്സ്യം നേരിട്ടു പിടിക്കുന്നവരിൽനിന്നും ഈ ലൈസൻസു ഒഴിവാക്കുന്നതു നീതിബാധകമാകുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യുവാൻ എനിക്കു അപേക്ഷയുള്ളതാകുന്നു.

ജനസംഖ്യയെ പ്രധാനമായി അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിയാണു Staff selection Board ന്റെ ഉദ്യോഗ വിഭജനമെന്നാണു ഞാൻ മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ O. H. B. Q. Depression സെക്ഷനിൽപെട്ടവർ ഒരു വിഭിന്ന വർഗ്ഗക്കാരാണെന്നതു ഓർക്കുമ്പോൾ എന്റെ ഉള്ളിൽകൂടി ഒരു മിന്നൽപിണർ പായുന്നതുപോലെ എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ പിന്നോക്കം, വിഭിന്ന ജാതിപെരുക്കം, പ്രത്യേക പ്രോത്സാഹനം, ജാതിയുടെ പ്രത്യേക നില, ജാതിയുടെ സാമ്പത്തിക നില, ജാതിമർദ്ദിതരിൽ മർദ്ദിതരാണോ, ജാതിസംസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ ചിന്നിച്ചിതറിക്കിടക്കുന്നതാണോ അല്ലയോ എന്നിത്യാദി ചുറുപാടുകളെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു കരുണയോടുകൂടി ആലോചിച്ചാൽ മാത്രമേ ഈ ഒരു ജാതിക്കാർക്കു ഉദ്യോഗലബ്ധിയിൽ ശ്വാസം ഇരുത്തി ആലോചിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ. കാര്യത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിയും ഗതിയും ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഞാൻ ഈ പറയുന്നതു വനരോദനമാകാനേ നിവ്വാഹമുള്ളൂവെന്നും എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നുണ്ടു്. എങ്കിലും വ്യാകുലചിത്തന്മാർ അടിസ്ഥാനമില്ലാത്ത വ്യാമോഹ പ്രകടനങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതും സാധാരണയാണല്ലോ. അയതുകൊണ്ടു അങ്ങിനെയുള്ളവരെ പ്രതിനിധീകരിച്ചുംകൊണ്ടു ഠഒക.യിൽ താഴെയുള്ള മീനിയിൽ നിയമനങ്ങളിലെങ്കിലും ഇവർക്കു ചെല്ലേണ്ട ഫവ്വ ശതമാനം അനുവദിക്കുമാറാകണമെന്നു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനോടു ഞാൻ ആ ബഹുസഹസ്രങ്ങളുടെ പേരിൽ നിവേദിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ ഇന്നാലത്തെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽനിന്നു പുലയരെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞതിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതിയുടെ നിഴലാണു് എന്റെ ഈ നിവേദനത്തിനു കാരണമായിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഞാൻ അല്പവിലാപത്തെ പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടി ഈ ബോർഡിന്റെ നിയ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

മനത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് എനിക്കുള്ള നിസ്സീമമായ ബഹുമാനത്തേയും ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

ആതുരന്മാരുടെ ബന്ധുത്വം സമ്പത്തായി കരുതിപോരുന്ന ഞാൻ ഇവിടത്തെ അഗതി മന്ദിരത്തെ (Poor House) പ്പറ്റിയും രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയുവാൻ പ്രേരിതനായിപ്പോകുന്നുണ്ട്. ആതുരന്മാരേയും നിസ്സഹായന്മാരേയും ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചു മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ തിരുനാമം സ്മാരകപ്പെടുത്തി അവിടത്തെ അതിധർമ്മതല്പരതയുടെ ആധിക്യത്താൽ ഈ തലസ്ഥാന നഗരിയിൽവെച്ചു സർക്കാർ ചിലവിന്മേൽ നടത്തുന്ന ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമാണല്ലോ ഇതു്. ഇവിടെ വൃദ്ധ പേക്കുമാത്രം എക്കോമഡേഷൻ ഉള്ളതായിട്ടാണു അറിയുന്നതു്. ഉള്ളതിൽ നേർപകുതി സ്ത്രീകൾക്കും കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. പുരുഷന്മാരെ ചേർക്കുവാൻ സ്ഥല ദൌർലഭ്യത്താൽ പ്രവേശനം നിറുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നതായിട്ടും അറിയുന്നു. ഏകദേശം അര, മുക്കാൽ ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലത്തു രോഗികളും വൃദ്ധന്മാരും മറ്റു അസ്വാസ്ഥ്യങ്ങൾക്കു വിധേയരുമായ ഏകദേശം ൪൦ ആളുകൾക്കു ഈ സ്ഥലം നിവസിക്കാൻ പോരാത്തതാണു്. ഇവരെ പട്ടണത്തിൽനിന്നു് ഏതെങ്കിലും ഗ്രാമപ്രദേശത്തേയ്ക്കു മാറുന്നതു പലപ്രകാരത്തിലും പ്രയോജനകരമായിരിക്കും എന്നാണു് എന്റെ വിനീതാഭിപ്രായം. ഗ്രാമീണ പുനരുദ്ധാരണത്തിൽ ബദ്ധകങ്കണതയെ പ്രദർശിപ്പിച്ചുംകൊണ്ടു ഫ്രഞ്ച്-ൽ വയറിലെ ഫാറത്തിൻ ഒരു സങ്കേതം സ്ഥാപിക്കുവാൻ പോകുന്നതായി ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ ഇന്നലത്തെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽനിന്നും കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഈ ആതുരസമൂഹത്തിനും കൂടി അവിടെ ഒരു ഭാഗത്തു സ്ഥലം കൊടുക്കുന്നതായാൽ അവർക്കു അവരുടെ അന്ത്യവിഹാരത്തിനു സ്ഥലസൗകര്യം ഹേതുവാൽ സുഖാനുഭവത്തിനു് സംഗതിയാകുന്നതാണു്. അന്ത്യവിഹാരമെന്നു് ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ മനഃപൂർവ്വമായി പറയുന്നതാണു്. ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തിൽ ചെന്നുചേരുന്നവരിൽ അധികഭാഗവും വൃദ്ധന്മാരായതുകൊണ്ടാണു ഞാൻ ഇങ്ങിനെ പറയുന്നതു്. ആയതുകൊണ്ടു ഗ്രാമീണ പുനരുദ്ധാരണത്തെ സംബന്ധിക്കുന്ന ശാസ്ത്രസിദ്ധാന്തങ്ങളും മാർഗ്ഗമദ്ധ്യേ നിന്നുകൊണ്ടു ഇതിനെ തടയുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഈ വൃദ്ധസഞ്ചയത്തെ ആ ഫാറത്തിലേയ്ക്കു മാറ്റിയാൽ കൊള്ളാമെന്നാണു എന്റെ അപേക്ഷ. ഇതിനും പുറമെ മറ്റു ധർമ്മ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളിലെപ്പോലെ ഇവരുടെ ദിനചര്യയെ നിയന്ത്രിക്കുന്ന ഒരു കാര്യപരിപാടിയിൽ സർക്കാരിൽനിന്നോ അതു നിയന്ത്രിക്കുന്ന കമ്മിറ്റിക്കാരിൽനിന്നോ അവർക്കു ഉണ്ടാക്കി കൊടുക്കണം. ഈ പരിപാടിയിൽ പ്രധാനമായി മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ നിത്യസൌഭാഗ്യത്തിനും ദീർഘായുസ്സിനുംവേണ്ടി പ്രാർത്ഥനാദികർമ്മം നടത്തുന്നതിനും പുറമെ ജാതിമതഭേദമെന്യെ ആരാധിക്കുവാൻ അവിടത്തെ ഒരു മഹായാപടം സൂക്ഷിക്കണമെന്നാണു എനിക്കു നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു്. ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ കോശസ്ഥിതി അനുവദിക്കുമെങ്കിൽ ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തിന്റെ ഉപശാഖകൾ എല്ലാ താലൂക്കുകളിലേയും ഓരോ ഗ്രാമത്തിലെങ്കിലും സ്ഥാപിച്ചാൽ അഗതി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

കളിൽ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ കരുണയെ കുറിക്കുന്ന മാനദണ്ഡം ഇതിൽ ഉചരിയായി തല്ക്കാലം വേറെയുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അതു കൊണ്ടു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയെ ഈ കാര്യത്തിലേയ്ക്കു ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഞാൻ ഒന്നുകൂടി പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഈ ആലയത്തിലെ നേതാവെന്നു നിലയിൽ കഴിഞ്ഞ രണ്ടു ബഡ്ജറ്റു സമ്മേളനങ്ങളിലും പങ്കുകൊണ്ട ക്ലേശലേശങ്ങൾ സ്പർശിക്കാത്തവിധത്തിൽ പനിനീർ തുകം പോലെയുള്ള സമുജ്വല സമാധാന പരമ്പരകളാൽ നമ്മുടെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ഗാംഭീര്യത്തെ പുലർത്തിയും, അനുദ്യോഗപക്ഷത്തിന്റെ ബഹുമാനാദികർഹിക്കുന്ന പാത്രീഭൂതനായും എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ചീഫ് കോർട്ടിൽ ജഡ്ജിപദത്തെ അലങ്കരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ബഹുമാന്യ ദേഹത്തിന്റെ അഭാവത്തെയാണു് ഞാൻ അനുസ്മരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇദ്ദേഹം കരുണയുടെ കരുന്നാണെന്നും പറഞ്ഞു ആതുരന്മാർ പാടുന്ന പാട്ടു ഈയുള്ളവന്റെയും കണ്ണുപൂടങ്ങളിൽ മാറെറാലിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ സർക്കാർ കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഈ മാതിരിയുള്ള വേർപാടുകൾ സാധാരണയാണല്ലോ. അതുകൊണ്ടു പുതിയ സിക്രട്ടറി അവർകളുടെ ഓമ്മയിൽ ഞാൻ വിനയപൂർവ്വം കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതു് തന്റെ മുൻഗാമിയുടെ പ്രശസ്തി പദ്ധതികളെ അനുവർത്തിച്ചു സന്തുഷ്ടിയേയും സമാധാനത്തേയും ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു അവശന്യൂനപക്ഷസമുദായങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ വരുത്തി ഈ ആലയത്തിന്റെ ഗാംഭീര്യത്തെ പുലർത്തുവാൻ സംഗതിയാക്കണമെന്നാണു്. അതിനു ഞാൻ ആത്മാർത്ഥമായി ആശംസിച്ചും സ്ഥാനലബ്ധിയിൽ അനുമോദിച്ചിച്ചും വിരമിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

**Mr. P. J. Alexander** *(Palluruthi).*—Sir, the auspices under which the new budget has been inaugurated seem to stimulate a hope that after all the budget may be worked next year so as to leave a decent surplus. The recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, the solemn assurance by Government that they "have by various devices attempted to place the most rigid control on expenditure" and the consoling declaration of the Finance Member that "the apparently somewhat large margin of surplus has been effected not by barshly curtailing the demands of Development Departments but by making more or less drastic reductions under T. A., Office contingencies and leave allowances" leave us little room to doubt the new good intentions of Government in matters financial. This becomes all the more apparent when it is found that the budgetted expenditure for the ensuing financial year is 4·66 lakhs less than the revised estimate for the current year. But, when, in addition to all this, we have the suggestion, dictated by prudent foresight, "that at least 3 lakhs of rupees every year would have to be saved from current revenues to meet our obligations under

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

capital expenditure" one begins to suspect whether the purse-strings are not beginning to tighten themselves too much already.

It is admitted that out of our revenue of about Rs. 100 lakhs the amount that lends itself to effective control is but Rs. 28.10 lakhs. If it be true that our revenues have ceased to be elastic, the Rs. 3 lakhs that should be put by as the surplus must be forced out of this 28.10 lakhs, working up to an incidence of about 10 per cent.

Now it being evident that all our public loans have been safely invested in sound, reproductive capital enterprises, which are as beneficial to posterity as to ourselves, if not more, I believe that though the wisdom of finding a surplus cannot be questioned, there does not seem to be a pressing emergency for such a thing, just at present. Rather I would say that there are at present more pressing demands which may be met with, by any available funds, most emergently and no less wisely. An enquiry into the living conditions obtaining in our rural areas will more than bear out my statement.

It is encouraging to find that Government have grown alive to the importance of this problem. But I doubt whether the Government approach to this problem is not something of the pursuit of a hobby rather than the tackling of a burning question of all State importance.

The share out of even the 28.10 lakhs of our revenue that is under effective control, which our 272 villages together, obtain for actual utility concerns, is, as disclosed by a close scrutiny of figures, so small that it can hardly reach the margin of usefulness. This process has been at work very long and under diverse financial conditions. Time was when we have had a series of surplus budgets and an accumulated surplus that amounted at one time, not very old, to over Rs. 90 lakhs. This was followed by deficit budgets and loans. And now again we are scheming up to surplus budgets. And always rural areas have invariably been coming in only for their practically neglected lot. I am not blaming Government that they have been wantonly going wrong. Government during all these terms have been bestowing their best attention to the non-rural areas where the good results of the same are amply on evidence to-day, and nobody can ever be sorry for it. It is almost in the natural course of things that the few towns in our State too should grow and develop on as up-to-date lines as possible and the efforts of our Government in helping them are really commendable. The proposed Rs. 5.80 lakhs loan to the Trichur Municipality for

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

purchase of the Electrical enterprise, the Rs. 80,000 for the Mattancheri submerged pipe-line and other allotments in all, meant to cover what I might term a rather extensive programme of amenities to most of our towns, in the next year's budget, cannot in the least be grudged.

My only contention is that, if the conditions of our rural areas be properly realised, Government should certainly find its way to make equally substantial contributions towards ameliorating the same. Government certainly cannot plead ignorance of these conditions, having before them the authoritative Economic Survey Report. Conditions as contained in that report are appalling enough. But the few years that have elapsed since the Report have witnessed their becoming more appalling still.

Unemployment, accelerated, though to a small extent, by some of our new taxes, prevails rampantly in our rural areas, especially during the rainy seasons. The rates of wages being such that even during times of employment workmen can hardly maintain themselves, unemployment even for a day would mean nothing short of starvation. I can cite instances having come within my own experience, of poor school children being fed by their starving, desperate parents for days together, upon cocoanut oil-cakes. Grown up children fainting and getting giddy in the class room over their burning stomachs are also not infrequent in this season. It is in the light of these pitiable facts that one can appreciate best, the wisdom of the Government policy, in paying feeding allowance to the depressed class pupils. But it will be noted that the pangs of poverty and starvation affect the non-depressed classes too as relentlessly as the others. Besides, there is a class of people whose economic conditions do not allow them to send their children even to our free Vernacular schools. Their lot under these circumstances may best be imagined.

Make a glance at the housing conditions in our rural areas, and the situation will be found to be harder still. Mud flooring which gets practically as wet as any unsheltered place in the monsoon are common to all the houses of the poor folk in our rural areas. Now one at least of every five of these houses will be seen to be unthatched and their inmates are to live in them as best as they can. Exposed therefore to all the elements, with no proper covering for their bodies, and starving for days together, the unemployed poor who form the majority of our rural folk carry on an existence, than which a more miserable one

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

can hardly be imagined. No wonder then that they fall easy victims to all sorts of diseases to which they can offer no sort of resistance, natural or otherwise. It is high time, Sir, that Government resolved to do something to preserve the human livestock in our rural tracts.

Now, it must be considered that all this suffering is to be countenanced in the midst of a so-called plenty which is still being associated with our land in general. Some common food stuffs with approved food values and grown in our own soil sell at the rate of eight pounds an anna. But, if in spite of this, our children must need be fed upon raw oil cakes, if our precious working population of the villages who spend their lifeblood for the good of the State should needs starve, be ill clad, ill housed, and ill protected against disease misery and premature death Government would do well to enquire whether they could not endeavour to prove themselves to be of greater practical utility to our rural people. I am sure our Co-operative department in co-operation with the Panchayats that function in our villages can do much in alleviating the situation if brought under a proper all State guidance under a well formed plan of rural welfare, say a five year or ten year plan. In our neighbouring British Indian Provinces we are shortly to witness great changes which we may hope, would go much in setting the balance even between rural and urban areas. Some funds must necessarily be found on this account and I am sure, for want of enthusiasts, with at least the minimum knowledge required to co-operate on right lines shown to them by qualified persons, the work need not be deferred. It is my earnest wish that the proposed rural reconstruction scheme to be got worked by the Y. M. C. A. is undertaken on a comprehensive scale sufficient to remedy the pressing needs of food, housing, medical aid etc., I have pointed out.

Government deserve our compliments for all the many good things they have done and are proposing to undertake, but more than all for the deference they are pleased to show to the wishes of this House. If this be so, it is obvious that there can be no wish dearer to this house than that it be made to function in State matters with a larger share of responsibility than at present. There is an impression gaining ground among the public that our Legislative Council with its limited power of a decade ago and in spite of our new Advisory Committees is showing a tendency to become an ornamental appendage to Government. It would certainly be worth-while to have this impression honourably removed.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Before I conclude, I would like to draw your attention to what I might term a new turn in the policy of Government with regard to according sanctions to opening places of public worship. Whatever be the motives guiding this new turn, it certainly works considerable hardship to large sections of the public, especially the religious minded who contribute to some of the healthiest elements of national well-being. In growing towns, where the growth of population would be faster than elsewhere, lack of such essential amenities would be a very serious drawback. I am led to make note of this fact here and now, with particular reference to the difficulties in the way of opening Christian churches, being encountered, of late. A Christian church, wherever it is to be opened will involve heavy sacrifices on the part of the Ecclesiastical authorities as well as of the Christian population concerned for its construction as well as maintenance, so that nowhere will it be demanded for, unless as an inevitable public necessity. If but our tolerant Government succeeds in seeing eye to eye with those concerned in this respect, I am sure they would find their way in removing the obstacles if any that now exist in the way of providing for a most emergent amenity of social life of a large section of His Highness's loyal and dutiful subjects.

*The House rose for lunch at 1-5 p. m. and reassembled at 2-15 p.m. with M. R. Ry. P. C. Varkey Avl., (Panel Chairman) in the Chair.*

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി (*Muslims*).— പ്രസിഡൻറ്, സർ, ഇക്കൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറിനെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുംകൊണ്ടു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഫിനാൻസു മെമ്പർ ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്ന പ്രസംഗത്തെപ്പറ്റി കാര്യമായി യാതൊന്നും പറയേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. എന്തുകൊണ്ടെന്നാൽ നിരാശാജനകമായ ഒരു ബഡ്ജറുകളാണു കൊല്ലന്തോറും ഇവിടെ കാണുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു ഫിഗർ ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു ഈ കൌൺസിലിനെ ധരിപ്പിക്കുകയും അനുഭവത്തിൽവരുമ്പോൾ കാണിച്ചതിനേക്കാൾ എട്ടും പത്തും സംഖ്യ പോരാതെയായിട്ടാണു ബഡ്ജറു അവസാനിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇത്തവണത്തെ ബഡ്ജറു് വളരെ ഗൌരവമായും വളരെ ശ്രദ്ധയോടുകൂടിയുമാണു് തയ്യാറാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു മുൻകൊല്ലങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു് ഒരു വ്യത്യാസവും വരുവാനിടയില്ലെന്നു ധരിക്കത്തക്ക പല കാര്യങ്ങളും ഇവിടെയുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഈ തവണ ഇതിനെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തി ക്രൂതലായ ഒരു വിമർശനം ചെയ്യുവാൻ ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. എനിക്കു പൊതുഭരണത്തെ സംബന്ധിക്കുന്ന ചില സംഗതികൾ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരേണ്ടതുണ്ടു്. അതിനെ മാത്രം ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചു രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയണമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ മുതലെടു

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

പ്പിൽ ഏറവും പ്രധാനമായി നില്ക്കുന്നതു് എക്സൈസു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെ ണ്ടാണു്. ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറു കൊച്ചീരാജ്യത്തുണ്ടായതിനുശേഷം ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ലാത്ത പല അനീതികളും അക്രമങ്ങളും ഈ വഷ്ത്തിൽ ചെ യ്യേണ്ടതായി വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഈ ഹൌസിനെ അറിയിക്കാതിരിക്കുവാൻ എനിക്കു നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഓരോ താലൂക്കടച്ചു് ചില ലൈസൻസുകൾ ഒരാൾക്കു ഏല്പിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുക എന്നുള്ള സമ്പ്രദായം ഈ രാജ്യത്തു പ തിവില്ലാത്ത ഒരേപ്പാടായിരുന്നു. അതിപ്പോൾ തുടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സമ്പ്രദായം ജനദ്രോഹമെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല സാധുജനദ്രോഹവും വ്യാ പാരമർദ്ദനവും കൂടിയാണു്. മുകുന്ദപുരം താലൂക്കിൽ എറെ പുകയില ഷാപ്പുകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതു് ഒന്നായി ഒരു മുതലാളിക്കു കൊടുത്തു. ര ണ്ടു കൊല്ലത്തേക്കാണു ഈ മോണോപ്പിളി കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ഗോവിന്ദമേനോൻ *(Adur)*.— ഇതിനു മുമ്പു അങ്ങി നെയല്ലായിരുന്നോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി *(Muslims)*.— അല്ല. അതു ഞാൻ തെളി യിക്കാം. അഞ്ചും പത്തും ഷാപ്പുകൾ ഒരാൾക്കു ഇതിനു മുമ്പു് അവി ടെ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. പക്ഷെ ഇത്തവണ അങ്ങിനെയല്ല വന്നതു്. മുകു ന്ദപുരം താലൂക്കിൽ ഒട്ടാകെ എറെ ഷാപ്പുകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിൽ എറെ-ം തന്നെ ഗവമ്മെൻറു ലേലം കൂടാതെ ഒരാൾക്കു വിട്ടുകൊടുത്തു. എറെ കുടുംബക്കാർ അതുകൊണ്ടു ജീവിച്ചിരുന്നു. വ്യാപാരികളെ സം ബന്ധിച്ചു മാത്രമാണു് ഞാൻ ഈ പറയുന്നതു്?

**Rama Varmha Tampuran** *(Commissioner of Excise)*.— Sir, I may be permitted to interrupt the Hon'ble Member and explain the situation.

A large number of shops had to be given on tender to a person, it is true. But it was so done after the auction and after it was found by the then presiding officer that it was impossible to get satisfactory bids because of strong combinations among intending bidders.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ കുട്ടി *(Muslims)*.— പണത്തെമാത്രം ഉദ്ദേശം ച്ചു് ജീവിക്കുവാനാണു് ഗവമ്മെൻറു വിചാരിക്കുന്നതെങ്കിൽ പണം ഉ ണ്ടാക്കത്തക്ക പല മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളും ഞാൻ കാണിച്ചു തരാം. മാക്കറുക ളിൽ പല സാമാനങ്ങളോടുകൂടി അനേകം വില്പനക്കാർ വരുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൻെറ കയ്യിൽ നിയമമുണ്ടു്. അതു പ്രയോഗിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ഇഷ്ടാനുസരണം പണമുണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുമെന്നാണു ഞാൻ പറയുന്ന തു്. ലേലം വിളിച്ചപ്പോൾ സംഖ്യ തികഞ്ഞില്ല എന്ന കാരണത്താ ലാണു് എറെ ഷാപ്പുകൾ ഒന്നിച്ചു് ഒരാൾക്കു കൊടുത്തതു്. രണ്ടായിര മോ മൂവ്വായിരമോ ഒരുപക്ഷെ അയ്യായിരമോ ആറായിരമോ ഉറപ്പിക്കു വേണ്ടി പതിനെണ്ണായിരത്തിൽ ചിലപ്പോൾ വരുന്ന ജനങ്ങളുടെ തൊ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഴിലിനെയാണ ഗവമ്മെൻറ മുടക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഫ്രൊ ഷാപ്പുകാരം ഫ്രൊ ആളുകളാണ വിളിച്ചു നടത്തിയിരുന്നത്. അങ്ങിനെ ഫ്രൊ ഷാപ്പുകാരംകൊണ്ടു ഫ്രൊ കുടുംബങ്ങളം ജീവിച്ചിരുന്നു. ഒരു കുടുംബത്തിൽ അഞ്ചു അംഗങ്ങളെ വീതം കണക്കാക്കുന്നതായാൽ എണ്ണൂറിൽ ചിലപ്പാനം ആളുകളം ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു കഷ്ടപ്പാടു അനുഭവിക്കേണ്ടിവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു കാണാം. ഓരോ പുകയില ഷാപ്പുകളിലും അഞ്ചു മുതൽ അമ്പതുവരെയുള്ള ബീഡി തെറുപ്പ് തൊഴിലാളികളം ഉണ്ട്. അവരെല്ലാം ഇപ്പോളം കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നു. ഇന്നു മുകുന്ദപുരം താലൂക്കിൽ ചിലവഴിക്കുന്ന ബീഡികളിൽ അധികവും പാലക്കാട്ട താലൂക്കിൽനിന്നും ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്യുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നത്. അതുകൊണ്ടാണു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു പണത്തിന്നുവേണ്ടി ഒരു വലിയ അനീതിയും വ്യാപാരമർദ്ദനവും ആണ് ഗവമ്മെൻറ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു എന്ന്.

**Rama Varmha Tampuran** *(Commissioner of Excise).*— Even though one person has taken out all these shops the services of all those who were running the tobacco shops in the previous year will automatically have to be requisitioned by him. There have been no restrictions even in the previous years for licensees to import tobacco from Palghat or from any other place in British India. It is open to them to get tobacco from anywhere they please. Then with regard to beedis, if Irinjalakuda beedies are cheaper there is no reason why the licensees should not go for them even during the next year.

I wish to explain once more that it was due to the unhealthy combination on the part of the licensees that tenders were taken. This has not affected any one adversely.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ കുട്ടി *(Muslims).*— സർ, പണസംബന്ധമായ വരുമാനങ്ങളം ഇന്നു തിരിച്ചുവച്ചു കൺട്രാക്ടറു കൊടുക്കുവാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുതന്നെ ആവശ്യമില്ല; ഇന്നു പിരിഞ്ഞുവരുന്ന സംഖ്യയേക്കാളം കൂടുതൽ സംഖ്യ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്നുണ്ടാകുമെന്നതന്നെയല്ല ഇത്ര വളരെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ആവശ്യവും വരുകയില്ല.

ഫ്രൊ ഷാപ്പുകാരം ഒരാൾ വിളിച്ചതുകൊണ്ടു മറ്റുള്ളവർക്കു തൊഴിലുകാരം പോകയില്ലെന്നു ഇവിടെ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതായ ബീഡികാരം പുറത്തുനിന്നും വരുത്തി വില്പനചെയ്യുന്നപക്ഷം എങ്ങിനെയാണു ആ തൊഴിലിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതെന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. ക്രൂടാതെ കരാറുകാരൻ നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്ന വിലക്കു ചരക്കുകാരം വില്പന ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നതാണ്. ഈ നഷ്ടം നാട്ടുകാരുടെ തലയിലാണു വരുന്നതു.

ചെയർമാൻ.— സമയമായി.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി (*Muslims*).— അതുകൊണ്ട് ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള മർദ്ദനങ്ങൾ നാട്ടിൽ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ ഗവമ്മെൻറു ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഗവമ്മെൻറു വിചാരിക്കാത്ത നിലയിലുള്ള ഒരു ചിലവു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു വന്നുകൂടുമെന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. വയറിലും വലുതു മനുഷ്യനു ഒന്നുമില്ല. പട്ടിണികിടന്നു വലയുമ്പോൾ അറിയാത്തതു അറിയും, ചെയ്യാത്തതു ചെയ്യും. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള പല കുഴപ്പങ്ങളുമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നും തദ്വാരാ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു തന്നെയും അതു താങ്ങി നില്ക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല എന്നും ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നുകൊണ്ടു എൻെറ പ്രസംഗം ഞാൻ അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** (*Wadakkancheri*).—Mr. President, taking the tip that was thrown out by the President this morning when the Hon'ble Member Mr. Sankunny had far transgressed his time limit and there was a good portion of his pleasing speech still to be delivered, taking that tip viz. that the undelivered portion of the speech may be taken as read, I will leave off a good slice of the earlier portion of my speech for want of time. I am not much concerned with that also. It is only a re-statement of the catalogue of achievements of the Government of Cochin during . . . . . .

**Mr. K. Ayyappan** (*Ezhuvas South*).—Sir, I want to know whether that portion will be published in the proceedings?

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** (*Wadakkancheri*).—I may inform the Hon'ble Member that the Diwan President has once ruled that that portion of a speech which is not delivered will be taken as read and published in the printed proceedings. The Hon'ble Member Mr. Viswanatha Iyer's speech at the last budget shows this. But I am not very much enamoured of it. I do not want that to be taken as read nor do I want it to be printed. I hope this will satisfy my Hon. friend the Member for Ezhuvas.

The Diwan of Cochin in his capacity as the chief of the Administration obtaining here to-day has stated on the opening day of the session of the various achievements of the Government of Cochin and he has given us a long catalogue of events printed in the long speech read out to us running through some 45 pages. That gives only the credit side of the balance sheet. Let us examine what is the debit side of the balance sheet. What does the other side present itself to us. Let us examine and satisfy ourselves. Did you not hear, Mr. President, the Diwan of Cochin cataloguing to this Hon'ble House with an amount of pardonable pride I concede item after item of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

proceedings of the Government of Cochin all issued in response to the wishes of the chosen representatives of the people. You might remember, Sir, that the Diwan told this Hon'ble House the other day that the appointment of the Staff Selection Board, the institution of a Franchise Committee, the appointment of a Debt Conciliation Board, publication of Text Books under the auspices of the Government, the establishment of the Land Mortgage Bank, are but a few of the examples of the major recommendations of this House which have been given effect to by the Government. Yes, Mr. President, the Diwan did all that we grant and joyously grant it, and I assure him that the country will remember his name with everlasting gratitude. But, Sir, I wish to ask most respectfully whether the Diwan did really refer to all his performances during the period he chose for this review. Did he not omit Sir,—I am not prepared to say that the omission was deliberate—did he not omit to tell this House, Sir, of the many gifts that loyal, enlightened Cochin enjoys to-day as the result of advice tendered by him. At this stage I crave the indulgence of my Hon'ble colleagues to allow me to draw their pointed attention as to how Cochinites looked upon the appointment of Sir Shanmukham as the Diwan of Cochin two years ago. Knowing as we did as keen and anxious observers of the march of events on the British Indian horizon-knowing as we did, his brilliant political career as a born fighter for freedoms battle almost from the very beginning of his political career, shinning as he did once as an able lieutenant of that most self sacrificing patriot among patriots the late lamented Motilalji of revered memory, were we not justified in entertaining hopes in his appointment. Our closer knowledge of him a few years later when he came to this capital city of ours, I believe for the first time, in the company of that dear son of India—the lion of the Punjab—whose premature fading away from the Indian firmament rejuvenated India felt and feels painfully, Lalaji to preside over the first Tenancy Conference and Mr. Shanmukham Chetty to preside over the first State Peoples Conference both arranged and successfully conducted by the indefatigable energy of my Hon'ble friend from Kunnamkulam only strengthened our impression of this erst while fighter for the emancipation of India from the self constituted white man's trustee ship of the brown branch of the same Aryan race. The speech that pure Mr. Shanmukham Chetty delivered—he was not knighted then—as president of the State Peoples Conference held here on Ernakulam foreshore, the present site known as the Irwin Park on the 5th day of Medom 1103 still rings in my ears. He told us then friends of the right that the people of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

State here as elsewhere have, for their voices being heard by the Government of the day which he did not hesitate to characterise then as unalloyed autocracy—at best a benevolent autocracy. He told us then, Mr. President, of the inherent God-given right of the subjects to govern themselves through their elected representatives responsible to the Legislature constituted on the suffrage of all the adults of the State. What a bright picture did he paint then for us to fight for and fight till we achieve our goal. With this intimate knowledge and impressions of the man, I ask, Mr. President, were not Cochinites justified if they honestly thought that with the choice made by His Highness our Maharaja to have Sir Shanmukham—yes, he had been knighted in the, interim—as our Diwan, were we not I ask justified in hoping that we were actually entering on an era of constitutional reforms with all that comes in its train. Yes, Sir, I assert we were completely right if we thought so. But alas, what a disappointment, what Himalayan blunder are we seen to have committed in entertaining such high hopes in his appointment. Look, Mr. President, how Sir Shanmukham the Diwan within but 11 months of his assuming the reins of administration of Cochin, look, Sir, how he took the people of Cochin by surprise—I use the word surprise advisedly—for absolutely no justifying or justifiable causes did exist at the time or for the matter of that at any time—when he presented to us the most obnoxious of all laws the Press Act enacted under the emergency provisions of our Cochin Legislative Council Act. O ! what a fall my friends. Look at that picture and this.

Let us also look at what followed this surprise sprung upon us. An appreciable section of this side of this House, a majority of the non-officials, walked out of Council in a body under the leadership of my Hon'ble friend from Pazhayannur our worthy leader to register its protest. This act of theirs earned for them the unenviable name or shall I say the enviable name of 'Irresponsibles' though some of them have since retrieved their lost honour by appropriate purificatory acts. Did not this Council throw out this measure when the Government a couple of days hence introduced the same with a view to have it passed by the Council? Did not again, Mr. President, this Council pass a unanimous cut on the General Administration demand during the last budget for the repeal of this most unwanted Act? Does the Diwan think, Mr. President, that this last vote of this Hon. House was also an antic played by the 'irresponsibles.' Then in that case do the Hon'ble the Deputy President, a most seasoned and respected member of this House, the Hon'ble Chairman Mr.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Varkey, a veteran Journalist and a renowned constitutionalist, the Hon'ble Chairman Mr. Ayyappan a 'practical politician,' all belong to that unhappy category. No, Mr. President, it will not be said that these Hon'ble Members are irresponsible. With all this unmistakable demonstration of popular resentment to this most obnoxious Act—the Press Law, what did the new year bring to us. A new year present indeed. Act II of 1112 was placed on the Statute Book. This ordinance, a little child only six months old, was given the place of honour on the Statute Book of Cochin, a blemish and a blot to the fair name of enlightened Cochin. The functions of the Fourth Estate were compelled to be performed to tune. The freedom of the Press was effectively stifled. Nor did it stop there. Freedom of association and of speech was also checked. The District Magistrate promulgates an order prohibiting public meetings, in and around Trichur within a radius of 5 miles, concerning the affairs of two Electric concerns of the place. The normal life of this gagging order was extended in the Government's anxiety to preserve peace by executive act for yet another period of 4 months though it is said that this order of prohibition was disobeyed by a high placed official which episode has given us the unseemly spectacle of sharp distinction between Sir Shanmukham the Diwan and Sir Shanmukham the individual. I am sure, Mr. President, it will not be pretended that these acts of the Government of Cochin—acts which seriously affect the fundamental rights of the people—it will not be pretended, I submit, were taken in response to the wishes of the people. I will close this portion of my observations, Mr. President, by inviting the kind attention of the Government of Sir Shanmukham, to the message sent to the States, but yesterday, by no less a person than the President of the great Indian National Congress to which, Hon'ble Members may remember, our illustrious Diwan once belonged. "It is well to remember", says Panditji, "that while we struggle for freedom in India, people of the States are denied the most elementary rights of citizenship. Civil liberties do not exist at all, even in a small measure, and unless there is liberty of freedom of speech, freedom of the Press, protection of life and property, freedom of association and the like, there can be no progress of any kind. The Government of a State which supresses civil liberties passes its own judgment against itself and must be considered not only reactionary but incompetent."

Now to the budget that has been presented to this House by the Hon'ble the Finance Member. The Finance Member all the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

world over is known to be a hard used person. Whether he presents a surplus budget or a deficit budget, he is always wrong.

Leaving details to be considered at the second stage of the budget when the demands are taken up for the vote of this House I will for the present confine myself within the limitation of a general discussion on the budget. What is the general picture presented by the budget? How far does it mirror to us the true condition of the country and to what extent has the Finance Member—why blame the Finance Member—to what extent have Government attempted to improve the economic condition of the subjects of the State? To both these querries the answer can be only a gloomy one. Out of an anticipated income of over a crore of rupees for the coming year what is it that has been set apart for the 85 per cent of the total population of the State belonging to the villages to 'live' and not 'exist' as is picturesquely put by Mr. T. K. Sankara Menon in his Economic Survey of the State? What has the Government of Sir Shanmukham done to tackle the problem of poverty, of grinding poverty, of enervating poverty of emasculating poverty?

**Deputy President.**—The Hon'ble Member's time is up.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—Sir, I may be allowed two minutes more. I ask again what really has our illustrious Diwan done to rescue the rural agricultural population from their appalling indebtedness. Does he think that by the starting of the Land Mortgage Bank or by the appointment of one solitary Debt Conciliation Board for only one portion of the State, does the Diwan think, I ask, that he has solved by these methods the problem of the indebtedness of the many lakhs of His Highness' loving and loyal subjects? Appretiating as I do the good intentions displayed through these acts and the small beginnings made I do not hesitate to respectfully inform the Government that these have not even touched a fringe of the problem. The Diwan's speech, Sir, dealing with the activities of the Land Mortgage Bank at pages 20 and 21 of his long resume establishes the position I take up. I will dilate upon this at the next stage of the budget. No Mr. President. A sum of Rs. 1500 for demonstration on ryots lands, the provision of Rs. 6000 for Rural uplift work to improve the lot of lakhs and lakhs of villagers are not going to improve the miserable lot of the villagers, which lot for want of time I do not now propose to picture to this Hon. House. I hope I will have another opportunity to do so in the days to follow.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I recognise, Mr. President, my time is up and so I will wind up. In the intensity of my feelings I might have put things rather nakedly; but I assure you, Sir, that it is done with the best of intentions with the belief that the Diwan will please take note of the misery of the villagers and come to their rescue with more drastic remedies than the ones adverted to above. Sir, I will close my observations by saying that the Diwan may be pleased to immediately take such steps as will assure the replacement of the present benovolent autocracy by a democracy of the Parliamentary type which is the goal of the Cochin State Congress, which infant institution I have the honour and privilege to serve as its humble secretary.

I entreat, Mr. President, let the Diwan of Cochin be pleased, be pleased, I entreat him, Sir, to give us responsible Government and then and then alone will he be in a position to passify the public. Then and then alone can a Budget as presented in the United Provinces by Premier Sjt. Govind Vallabh Pant which has programmed and programmed well for the uplift of the masses groaning under the weight of hoarded up debts of years, be presented in Cochin unlike the Budget such as will benefit any particular class as the Government of Cochin has presented this year as in previous years. These measures like the Land Mortgage Bank, and Debt Conciliation Board are too meagre to meet the situation. Let some drastic remedies be applied, for chronic disease requires drastic remedies. Time and tide wait for nobody and therefore, Sir, let the Diwan act in time. Let it be not too late and let me close these general observations of mine in the language of the poet who sang or shall I say wept

'The moving finger writes and having writ
Moves on; nor all thy piety nor wit
Shall hire it back to cancel half a line
Nor all thy tears wash out a word of it'.

Sir, I have done. I thank you for your indulgence.

**Mr. C. S. Viswanatha Ayyar** *(Chittur Tattamangalam Town).*—Mr. President, Sir, before actually beginning to say a few words about the Budget just now formally presented by the Hon. Finance Member, let me enter my emphatic protest against the way in which the whole Budget was published in all the leading papers. Long before the so called "Confidential" Budget was sent to the Hon'ble Members of this House, the whole world had been in possession of all the figures and features and hence the formal presentation of the Budget has been robbed of all its

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

expectancy and novelty. The secrecy of the Budget is so great, that a Minister in England lost his seat in the Cabinet for its alleged leakage, and nearer home in India a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly is facing a criminal prosecution for attempting to get at the Budget before it was presented. If not for anything else at least to keep up the dignity and privileges of this Hon. House I appeal to you, Sir, as the guardian of its rights and privileges, to take necessary action in the future at least, against its publication long before its presentation.

This is the third Budget that is being presented to us since the advent of the present Diwan and it was not without a certain amount of surprise that I went through the stereotyped nature of its figures. It lacks dreadfully the touch of an able Financier and that of a bold statesman. My surprise can be easily explained when I recall to the memory of the House the great reputation that our present Diwan had built up ere coming over to our State as an able Financier, and a bold politician who had made public finance his special subject. When, during the course of all the three budgets, one fails to discover all the brilliance of an able financier the surprise is easily explained. One fails to find any the least difference in the Budgets prepared by our 'administrative Diwan' and 'financier Diwan'. No doubt, we are told, as in usual course of things, that we are going to have a year of prosperity which will give us a surplus Budget at the end. On even a cursory perusal of the Budget, with the experience one has of the working of the administrative machinery, it can be safely stated that the year is going to end again in a deficit. It is not my purpose to enter minutely into the figures to convince the House that the year will end in a deficit. Suffice it to say that the income under certain heads have been inflated and expenses necessarily reduced out of all proportions so much so, when the year runs out, one will not be surprised that the expectations of the Government under both the heads were not properly calculated upon.

We hear much about the 'progress' of Cochin but the Budget just now presented belies strongly that bold claim. When the actuals of the current year are below the anticipated income, it is surely not a sign of progress. In spite of the assertions made by the Government, the Budget figures clearly point out that we are still in the grip of the economic depression. What is being done for the poor folk living in the villages of the State, while fabulous amounts, and I say out of all proportions, are being spent on the beautification of two centres in the State

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

just to please the fancies of certain individuals? Year after year large sums are spent in towns to the lasting and increasing detriment of those living in the interior. I refer to the non-provision for a comprehensive scheme of Rural reconstruction and the development of Cottage Industries, not to speak of the absence of any help or encouragement to the Agriculture of the State. It is certainly late in the day to speak anything about the absolute necessity of concentrating on Rural Reconstruction and development of Village Industries. I am aware, that there are a set of people who are so deeply imbued with the spirit of modern Industrialisation that they scoff at the idea of Cottage Industries. But Hon'ble Members will agree with me when I say that in a land like ours where it is not so very easy to enter upon any big scheme of Industrialisation it is but the first step in the right direction to encourage the Cottage Industries. An enquiry into the State of Cottage Industries will reveal its dying stage due to lack of encouragement and the patronage at the hands of the Government. Eminent financiers have stated that the salvation of our land lies in the development of our villages and their attached Cottage Industries, since we are admittedly an agriculturist nation. In my own place of Chittur, hand-weaving which once flourished on a competitive scale has died out. Time there was when more than 200 families lived on this handweaving but to-day many of the members of that community are seen walking about the streets in search of cooly work for their maintenance. Again, speaking from my experience and knowledge of Chittur, there are other Cottage Industries like potteries, bell metal manufacture, grass mat-weaving, palmyra jaggery manufacture, cutlery manufacture, etc. all of which had seen affluent days but are today dying out due, mainly, to the lack of encouragement and patronage. Once these industries die out what will become of those who subsist on them? All Governments in India, including the Central Government, are devoting time and energy towards doing something to keep up the Cottage Industries in their planned scheme of Rural Reconstruction. But such a scheme is singularly missing in our Budget. India lives in villages and our State also lives in villages but the Budget presented has not done anything to those villagers who look, alas, in vain, to Government for support and help.

Rural Reconstruction is another subject on which every Government having the real interest of its subjects at its heart is concentrating. The great saint of Sabarmathi, the Naked Fakir, who today shapes the policy of the Governments,

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in six out of eleven provinces in British India, is diverting all his wonderful engery and organising capacities in the Rural Reconstruction of India. The Government of India's concern in the matter, which became famous by the Hallet Circular, set apart a big sum of a crore of rupees in 1935 towards a scheme of Rural Reconstruction. This year alone we find a trifle of Rs. 6,000 set apart towards this useful and necessary scheme and the wonder of it is that it is to be used only at Vyttila. It is true that the subjects living in towns are having electricity, Radio music, a well laid out park, very huge Reading Rooms and Libraries all at the expense of the Rural population. What is it that you have done or intend doing for the Rural population? The Budget is singularly silent on this important question. In the so called 'model-State' of Mysore, recently an announcement was made that the Government were going to have 188 model villages and the Diwan in answer to what a model village is has stated "A model village means an ideal State". Look at our Budget. It seems as if the Government are blind even to the existence of villages in the State on the prosperity of whose population the prosperity of the State depends.

From talking about villages and Rural affairs let me now come to the Urban area. Even there Budget refuses to reveal any bold or progressive policy. Quite recently a number of Taluq committees have been constituted to advise the Government in the aid to be given to Industries. But all the same, one fails to see any provision for the aid to be given in the Budget, and that leads only to one conclusion, that no State-aid will be given to industries in the coming year. Twenty-eight months of administration by an Industrial Diwan has failed to Industrialise the State so far. The raw-products of the State are being exported outside to be brought again as finished products. The Government has so far failed to make provisions for converting the raw products that are being exported into finished products in the State itself. The salvation of the State lies in the way in which she is able to develop her Industrial activities. No nation will progress on agriculture alone. Both agriculture and industries ought to go hand in hand and the Government must show the subjects the proper way in these matters. This matter seems not to have engaged the attention of our Government at any time and year after year one goes through the pages of the Budget with great expectancy but only to be disappointed. Look at Mysore, where year after year industries are springing up to the benefit of the

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people. The Irwin Canal cultivation in sugar cane made it possible to start a sugar factory at Mandya. They have even started a glass factory and paper factory. However much one section of the people may say that Mysore is going head-long, the fact remains that no industrial concern started in that State either by the Government or private companies has collapsed so far. On the contrary, new industries are being started every year. Nearer home at Travancore, the latest Budget shows the bold policy of the present administration in industrializing the State and if what Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Ayyar, K. C. I. E., has been able to achieve at Pykara and Mettur can be taken as an index of his capacities, it can be safely stated that ere long Travancore will lead even Mysore. Cochin lags behind in spite of her having one who had had a good training in big industrial concerns, as her administrator. One expected that the contagion of Travancore and Mysore will spread to Cochin this year at least, but the Budget falsifies that hope. As already stated by me the Budget is a stereotyped one, revealing no policy towards leading the State to the promised land of progress.

Let alone Industrial schemes—what is it that is being done towards developing the Agriculture of the State-Echo answers 'what'. My suggestion to encourage the cultivation of sugar-cane and cotton made in the course of the Budget debates last year seems to have fallen on deaf ears. There is a great future for cotton and sugar cane and all Governments in India are attempting and doing their very best to increase the extent of cultivation and recent literature published on these matters show what great strides these cultivations have taken in recent years. The Government seem not to care at all for the development of Agriculture, much less to ameliorate the lots of the Agriculturists. It is admitted on all hands that cotton and sugar cane give a better return than paddy and yet the Government refuse to do anything in the matter of encouraging the cultivation of these useful and profitable commodities. There is no attempt made for a proper and useful distribution of manure to the agriculturists. What has the Government done towards increasing the lots of agriculturists? What amenities have you given them? How are they going to meet the demands of good healthy cattle? Have you provided them with good pasture lands? Without doing these essential preliminaries, your attempt at showing him specimens of good cattle shows that Cochin Government have also taken the contagion from the Imperial Government. This is all good talk but absolutely of no practical value.

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When the lots of the subjects of the State are thus left uncared for, of late, one hears a bit too much of Federation and allied things. There seems to be a greater anxiety on the part of the vociferous few to discuss about Federation than to talk practical things of benefit to the villagers for whose prosperity we are supposed to collaborate here. Persons who had recently witnessed the march of events in British India and the unambiguous declaration of Pandit Jawaharlal about the motive lying behind the policy of acceptance of office by the Congress, viz., to kill the intended Federation will certainly cease to talk enthusiastically about the Federation, the inauguration of which is receding back every day. Let us cease to talk of this 'bastard Federation', as Prof. Keith said, which may not at all come into existence and let us begin to think in terms of the welfare and prosperity of the rural population. I feel almost certain, having regard to the utterances of Pandit Jawaharlal, Bhulabhai Desai, Satyamurti and others that the Federation that we now think of is not going to come at all. Hence we shall commence to see things in the State not in terms of the 'bastard Federation' but in those of the happiness and well-being of her subjects. Viewed from this angle one has to painfully say that the Budget just now presented falls far short of one's expectations. It has absolutely no novel feature about it and, to use a phrase with which the Hon'ble Members of this House are familiar, it comes out of the same press which has been printing the Budgets all these years. This is literally true also. There is absolutely nothing in it on which one can congratulate the Government but everything for which the Government can be rightly and justly criticised. These are the thoughts that come uppermost to one's mind on going through the Budget and let me conclude in the hope that in the next Budget at least in view of the extension of the term of office of our popular Diwan which thus gives him opportunities to place our State on the road to modern progress, we shall be able to see something novel and practical which will help both the Government and the people to go through prosperous days, if not of plenty, at least days which will not leave a pang behind.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ (*Nellayi*).— അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനവർകളേ! സാറെ; ഇതു എന്റെ ഫസ്റ്റ്-ടൈത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റു പ്രസംഗമാണ്. എനിക്കു പ്രസംഗിക്കുവാൻ ഫസ്റ്റ് മിനിട്ടു സമയമേയുള്ളൂ. ഫസ്റ്റ് എന്നുള്ളതു് അമംഗളമാണെന്നാണു എന്റെ ചില സ്നേഹിതന്മാർ പറഞ്ഞതു്. ഇപ്പോൾ പ്രസംഗിക്കേണ്ട എന്നാണു ഞാൻ വിചാരിച്ചിരുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ പിന്നീടു ആലോചിച്ചതിൽ ഒരു പ്രസംഗം വേണമെന്നു തന്നെ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

യാണു ഞാൻ തീർച്ചയാക്കിയതു്. അതിനുള്ള കാരണം കഴിഞ്ഞ തിരിഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിൽ വലിയ വലിയ ശക്തികൾ എന്നെ എതിർക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ നാട്ടുകാരുടെ ശക്തിയാണു മറേറ ശക്തിയേക്കാൾ വലിയതെന്നു കാണിച്ചുകൊടുത്തു. അടുത്ത തിരിഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിലും ഇതിലും വലിയ ശക്തി എതിർക്കാതിരിക്കുകയില്ല. ശക്തിതന്നെ എതിർക്കുമോ എന്നറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. എന്തു ശക്തി വന്നാലും ഞാൻ എതിർക്കുവാൻ തയ്യാറാണു്. എങ്കിലും തിരിഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു വരുമ്പോൾ എന്തൊക്കെ വരുമെന്നു അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. ഒരുസമയം വരുന്ന ബഡ്ജറ്റു യോഗത്തിൽ പ്രസംഗിക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഇതു എന്റെ ഒടുവിലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റു പ്രസംഗമായിരിക്കും എന്നുള്ള വിചാരംകൊണ്ടാണു ഞാൻ ഇപ്പോൾ പ്രസംഗിക്കുവാൻ തീർച്ചയാക്കിയതു്. അമംഗളം തീരുവാൻ വേണ്ടി, സാധാരണ ഇംഗ്ലീഷിലാണു എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം; അതിപ്പോൾ മലയാളത്തിലാക്കി; പിന്നെ എഴുതി വായിക്കുകയാണു പതിവു; അതും വേണ്ടെന്നുവെച്ചു; എന്നതന്നെയല്ല പ്രസംഗത്തിന്റെ രീതിയും തന്നെ മാറിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്തെന്നാൽ എന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ആക്ഷേപമേയുള്ളൂ എന്നു എന്നെപ്പററി പലരും ആക്ഷേപം പറയുന്നതു ഞാൻ കേട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഞാൻ ചില സ്തോത്രങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യാൻ തുടങ്ങിയാണു വന്നിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അതായതു നമ്മുടെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളെ നമ്മുടെ കൊല്ലത്തേയ്ക്കു എക്സ്റ്റൻഷൻ കിട്ടിയതിൽ ഒന്നു അനുമോദിക്കണമെന്നാണു ഞാനും വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു്. കാരണം, എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൽനിന്നു, ഇതേവരെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾക്കു ഒരു മംഗളപത്രമോ, ഹാരമോ, അനുമോദനമോ കൊടുക്കുവാനുള്ള സന്ദർഭം എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലക്കാർക്കു കിട്ടീട്ടില്ല. ലോകമൊക്കെ, കൊച്ചി രാജ്യം ഒട്ടുക്കു അദ്ദേഹത്തെ അനുമോദിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു, എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലക്കാർ മാത്രം അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യാതിരിക്കുന്നതു ആക്ഷേപകരമായാലോ എന്നു വിചാരിച്ചു അവരുടെ പ്രതിനിധിയെന്ന നിലയിൽ ഞാനും അദ്ദേഹത്തെ അനുമോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. അനുമോദിക്കുന്നതിൽ പ്രത്യേകകാരണമുണ്ടു്. ഇന്നാട്ടെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ കൌൺസിലിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ പലതും സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. എന്നാൽ സ്വീകരിക്കാത്തതും പലതുമുണ്ടു്. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട വടക്കാഞ്ചേരി മെംബർ അവർകൾ പറഞ്ഞ മാതിരി സ്വപ്രയോജകൾക്കും അനുഭാവം ഉള്ളതായ ചില സംഗതികൾ അദ്ദേഹം അനുവദിക്കുകയുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. അതിൽ ഒന്നു 'പ്രസ്സു് ലാ' തന്നെ. കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങൾ പറയുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ അയൽ രാജ്യത്തിൽ പോയി വല്ലതും എഴുതാമെന്നുവെച്ചാൽ അതും പാടില്ല; ആ കടലാസ്സുകൾ എല്ലാം കണ്ടുകെട്ടി.

മണികണ്ഠനാൽതറയ്ക്കൽവെച്ചു ഒരു യോഗം കൂടി ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾക്കു കാലാവധി നീട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കരുതെന്നു് നിശ്ചയം പാസ്സാക്കുകയുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ½ ശതമാനം നികുതി കുറക്കണമെന്നു പലതവണയും കൌൺസിൽ പാസാക്കീട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിനേയും ഗണിച്ചിട്ടില്ലാ.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഇങ്ങിനെ പലവിധത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ അപ്രീതി സമ്പാദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഘട്ടത്തിൽ അഭ്രതപൂവ്വമായ ഒരു എക്സ്റ്റൻഷൻ—അതായതു അഭ്രതപൂവ്വമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ, സാധാരണ എക്സ്റ്റൻഷൻ കൊടുക്കുന്നതു അവരുടെ അവധി അവസാനിക്കുന്ന കാലത്താണു. അതും ഒരു കൊല്ലത്തിൽ അധികം നീട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കുക പതിവില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഇതു അങ്ങിനെയല്ല. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ കാലാവധി അവസാനിക്കുന്നതിനു മുമ്പുതന്നെ മൂന്നു കൊല്ലത്തേക്കു ഒരുമിച്ചു നീട്ടിക്കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതാണ് അഭ്രതപൂവ്വമെന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു്. അങ്ങിനെ മൂന്നു കൊല്ലത്തേയ്ക്കു എക്സ്റ്റൻഷൻ വാങ്ങിച്ചതിൽ ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ അനുമോദിക്കുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻകുട്ടി *(Anthikad)*.— വാങ്ങിച്ചതാണോ, കൊടുത്തതല്ലേ?

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ *(Nellayi)*.— അങ്ങിനെ ആകാം. കൊടുത്തപ്പോൾ വാങ്ങി, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ വാങ്ങിയപ്പോൾ കൊടുത്തു. എന്തായാലും അദ്ദേഹത്തിനെ പ്രത്യേകം അനുമോദിക്കുന്നു.

ഇനി ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയാമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കീട്ടുള്ള ഈ ബഡ്ജറുപോലെ ഒരു ബഡ്ജറു ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ ഡാക്ടർ, ലിറിൽ ടോഡർ വാളൊ' പറഞ്ഞപോലെ ൩൦൦-ം ൬൦൦-ം ശമ്പളം വാങ്ങിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. എന്റെ ഗ്രമസ്ഥനോടു പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ വേണ്ടിവന്നാൽ രണ്ടു മണിക്കുറിനുള്ളിൽ ഇതുപോലെയുള്ള ഒരു ബഡ്ജറുണ്ടാക്കും. എങ്ങിനെയെന്നാൽ മിച്ചം കാണിക്കണമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യ നീക്കിവെച്ചു ബാക്കിയുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു ഒരു ബഡ്ജറുണ്ടാക്കണം. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം കുറക്കാതെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഉപകാരപ്രദമായ എല്ലാ വകുപ്പുകളിൽനിന്നും കുറച്ചു ഒരു ആകെതുക ശരിപ്പെടുത്തണം. ഇതൊക്കെ സാധാരണ ആക്ടം ചെയ്യാം. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഒരു ബഡ്ജറുണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ ഫിനാൻസു മെംബറെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ സാധിപ്പിച്ചതിനു ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ഒന്നുകൂടി അനുമോദിക്കുന്നു.

സർ, ഇതെന്തു ബഡ്ജറാണു്. എന്തെല്ലാം ഇനങ്ങളിൽ കുറവു വരുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു. P. C. R. വക്കു് സ് കുറച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. പിന്നെ അവധിയുടെ കാര്യത്തിലും മറ്റും കുറച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ മരിച്ചവക്കു അവധി കൊടുക്കുവാൻ പാടുള്ളൂ എന്നു തോന്നും. അതും പോര ചില റോഡുകൾ അമ്പതിനായിരത്തോളം ഉറുപ്പിക ചിലവാക്കിയുണ്ടാക്കീട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള റോഡുകൾക്കു യാതൊരു മെയിൻറനൻസും ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നാണു പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നതു. ഇങ്ങിനെ പലതും കുറച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. പിന്നെ പഞ്ചായത്തു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നു വലിയൊരു സംഖ്യ കുറച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. നാട്ടിൻ പുറങ്ങളി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ലുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾക്ക ഉപകാരമുള്ളതായ എന്തെല്ലാം ഉണ്ടോ ആ ഇനങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നൊക്കെ കുറച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ബഡ്ജറു തയ്യാറാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നതു മാത്രമല്ല; വേറെ ഒരു കഥ പറയാം. കൊച്ചി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ഇന്നത്തെ കടം ഫഠള ലക്ഷമാണ്—എഴുപത്തഞ്ചായിരം രൂപായാണു് സർ, ഇപ്പോൾ കടത്തിനു സിങ്കിങ്ങ് ഫണ്ടായി വച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ ഒരു ആയിരം ഇരുപതു കൊല്ലം കൊണ്ടു ഒരുലക്ഷത്തി അമ്പതിനായിരമാകും എന്നതന്നെ വെക്കുക. ഇങ്ങനെ ചഠ കൊല്ലത്തേക്കും ഫ൭൦൦൦ ക ഉണ്ടായാൽതന്നെ ന൦ ലക്ഷമെ ആകയുള്ളൂ. ന൦ ലക്ഷം കഴിച്ചു ബാക്കി ൭൦ ലക്ഷം കടം എവിടെ നിന്നാണു തീർക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ ദിവാൻജിക്ക ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടവരുകയില്ല, ചഠ കൊല്ലംവരെ ഇദ്ദേഹം ഇവിടെ ഇരിക്കയില്ല. അന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻജിയും അന്നത്തെ നാട്ടുകാരും ഈ ശ്രമം എവിടെ നിന്നു കൊടുക്കും. ഈ വൈഷമ്യം എവിടെനിന്നു തീർക്കും? അതിനു നികുതിക്രട്ടേണ്ടിവരും. ജനങ്ങൾക്ക ക്ഷേമം ക്രടി ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കണം. നികുതി ചുമത്തുന്നതിന്റെ പ്രിൻസിപ്പിൽതന്നെ എന്താണ്. ആവശ്യമുള്ള കാര്യത്തിനു നികുതി കൊടുക്കുവാനില്ലാത്തപ്പോൾ അനാവശ്യമായി കടം വാങ്ങിയതു് കൊടുപ്പാനായി നികുതി ക്രട്ടേണ്ടിവരും. അതുകൊണ്ടു വലിയ വലിയ നികുതിക്രട്ടി ജനങ്ങളെ ദ്രോഹിക്കുവാൻ ഇടവരുത്തുന്നു എന്നാണു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. ഇതൊക്കെ പറയുന്നതായാൽ മൂങ്ങ എന്നോ നരിച്ചീലു് എന്നോഒക്കെ വിളിക്കുകയായിരിക്കും. വലിയ വലിയ സായ്പന്മാർ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്.

Lord Liliford once President of the British Ornithologists Union said 'that the owl is really a friend of the farmer and that the fittest place for the wilful destroyer of any owl was the Lunatic Asylum. The owl is the worst enemy of field mice and rats as well as insects.' (Dharmarajya, 1st October 1936.)

.ഇങ്ങിനെയാണു് പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നതു് (ചിരി). ഇതൊരു കൃഷിരാജ്യമാണ്. കൃഷിക്ക ഏറ്റവും ഉപകാരപ്രദമായ ഒരു വസ്തുത്തിൽ എന്നെ പെടുത്തുന്നതിൽ സങ്കടമില്ല.

**Mr. President:—** Time.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രൻ (*Nellayi*) :— സർ, ഒരു വാക്കു ക്രടി പറയുന്നു. ഡാക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ പറഞ്ഞതുമാതിരി ആക്ഷേപം പറയുന്നവർ വിരോധികളാണെന്നും സ്തോത്രം പറയുന്നവർ വിരോധികളല്ലെന്നും ധരിക്കരുതു്. എല്ലാവക്കും ക്ഷേമമായിട്ടു ഭരിക്കണം. ഇതുപോലെ ഒരവസരം അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു കിട്ടുകയില്ല. മഹാരാജാവിനു് ഏറ്റവും വിശ്വാസം അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പേരിൽ ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടാണു് മുന്നൂകൊല്ലത്തേക്കുക്രടി നീട്ടിക്കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ലോകംമുഴുവൻ സഞ്ചരിച്ചആളാണ്. ഇതുയും സരസ്വതിപ്രസാദമുള്ള ഒരാൾ ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ ഉണ്ടോ എന്നതന്നെ സംശയമാണു്. അതു ജനങ്ങളെ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

യും വശീകരിച്ച് രാജ്യം ഭരിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തു കുറെ ക്ഷേമംവരുമെന്നു എനിക്കു ബോദ്ധ്യമാണ്. ഇത്ര നല്ല അവസരം ഇനി കിട്ടുമൊ എന്നു സംശയമാണ്. ഈ സംഗതി ദിവാൻജി അവർകളെ പറഞ്ഞു നിങ്ങൾ മനസ്സിലാക്കണം. അവസാനമായി ഇനി ഞാൻ ഈ കൗൺസിലിൽ വരുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളെ ഇപ്പോൾ പറഞ്ഞ കാരണങ്ങൾ വിപരീതകാരണങ്ങളാൽ അനുമോദിക്കാൻ ഇടവരുത്തുന്നതിനു ഈശ്വരനെ പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Urakam).*—Sir, in spite of our repeated, but apparently unavailing, protests, the wheel of Government are moving merrily on. There seems very little disposition to know of the ruts and hidden pitfalls, nor to avoid them. My feeble efforts today shall be mainly directed to point out the dangers of this trip, and if possible, to point out some of the ways in which these may be avoided. I do not, therefore, propose to discuss the details of the budget.

*The Services:* The state of the Civil Service in the State deserves more than passing attention. It is the very key-stone of our administrative edifice. There is no hiding the fact that our men in service are very much discontented with the present state of affairs. A few years ago, it was considered to be one of the most distinguished in the whole of India. A spirit of demoralisation has crept over the whole thing. What are the reasons?

For one thing, officers at the top are appointed without any consideration for the legitimate rights of the junior incumbents. Some of the heads of Departments are men whose present qualifications do not warrant them in holding such appointments. It is difficult and delicate in this connection to make invidious distinctions; but I rest content by saying that the existing departmental rules have to be considerably mutilated to justify the claims of the present holders of some of the Heads of Departments.

Besides this highly reprehensible practice, there is the equally objectionable one of importing outsiders. This is one of the most unjustifiable steps which one finds under the present administration. When plenty of local talent is available, it is highly objectionable to bring men from outside, however eminent their qualifications may be, unless it be that the State wants the services of technical experts.

Equally serious is the method adopted in amalgamating departments. An impression has gained ground that the motive behind such shufflings is to further the claims and interests of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

certain favourities. The creation of a Publicity Officer is another step showing the tendency of the administration to provide for particular individuals. The appointment of members of the Legislative Council and their relations—I need not mention the names in this connection, these being too well known—to executive administrative posts, is another factor which has served to lower the morale of the services. The exemptions given to others like the Assistant Jailor from all qualifications—three of them—is another glaring example of the way in which appointments have been prostituted to reward particular individuals for special services and help rendered by them.

It is true that there is a Staff Selection Board existing in the State. But that has not proved a real remedy for this official disease. Even if it does, it is only in the case of a few appointments carrying a salary of Rs. 100 and below.

But it is in the matter of promotions that the greatest official extravagance and injustice seem to prevail. Previously honest and efficient service alone counted. But now one finds a good many persons sneaking in through the back-door. Shunting from one department to another in such an extensive and bare-faced manner is a new improvement in the history of the Cochin Civil Service. There are many new moves in the official chessboard in recent times. A prosecuting Inspector performs an official triple sommersault over the heads of many others and finds himself head of two Departments. An income tax officer developes over-night into a Tahsildar to the dismay and envy of his quantom superior. A junior Registrar who has been vegetating for a long time in his post becomes suddenly one of the Superintendents of the Huzur. The quick evolution of a clerk in the Police Commissioner's Office into an Inspector of police walking over the heads of many other just claimants, ought to increase our respect for the administration which seems to be so prompt in finding out the abilities of certain individuals at convenient moments. Of course, the fact that there may be a bad record against such an individual need not bother the Government when it is looking out for rewarding merit. An ordinary clerk in one Department finds himself the next day the Head clerk in another office rivalling the miracles found in Arabian Nights. Some officiating hands are placed over other permanent hands, and others seem to be developing an official baldness by juniors walking over their heads. The efficiency displayed in one department ceases to be a good qualification in some cases. Dame Rumour has it that such official vagary has been primarily responsible for bringing to an untimely grave

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

one of the high officers of the State. It is indeed a very sad story and there is no need to give a long catalogue of all these official miscarriages. That there is a strong under-current of discontent and demoralisation is apparent to every one who has been following the history of the Civil Service in the State.

*Civil Liberties:* When I come to a consideration of the suppression of civil liberties in the State, the story is more tragic. Most of the elementary rights of citizenship, like the freedom of association and freedom of expression have been mercilessly curtailed by an administration which proclaims in season and out of season, that it welcomes nothing so much as criticism. The people of the State had been enjoying these civil liberties without any interference till recently. The Newspaper Act has completely gagged the Press. The change in the attitude of the Press is more or less a rough index of the change that has come over the whole political landscape of the country. Only the most servile and reactionary Press seem to be flourishing under the new atmosphere which the Government has created for them. The manner in which the provisions of this law are enforced are highly objectionable. Invidious discriminations are shown in the fixing of license fees for different papers. The maximum amount of security the law allows was demanded from a paper which was forfeited for publishing a speech delivered in this Council. It is interesting that the same speech was also published by other papers in the State.

Further, papers which used to take fearless and impartial views of the measures of the Government, and which used to come from outside were not spared. Special Proclamations were issued banning the entry of papers from the neighbouring State. The Government seems to be evidently bent upon producing and giving an easily digestible intellectual food to the political babies in the State. The right of free association, though denied for some time, has been subsequently restored. It is regretable to find the Government singling out certain individuals in this connection. Mr. Kurur Nambudiripad has been prohibited from entering his own house and all Brahmin houses, and he is not allowed to touch any public tank or wells. Curiously enough, this excommunicated gentleman has been given the right to exercise his own imagination to find out the reasons for such a step. Others are not allowed to walk through certain particular roads on particular occasions. A petty school master has been victimised recently for the alleged offence of advocating the cause of Temple Entry.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Apart from such comic cases, one finds the Police Department particularly busy in recent times. Police Officers seem to be developing literary tastes also for they are seen attending debating societies and meetings much to the embarrassment of the students and of the authorities concerned. Our young Police Commissioner is a believer in repression. I congratulate him for that. For was not a few years' lathi rule in British India able to secure for that country what 45 years' of petitioning by their forefathers could not secure? The number of prosecutions for offences not involving moral turpitude seems to be on the increase. The latest attitude of the Government in the matter of social reform movements in the country is highly reactionary and retrograde. While untouchability has been officially suppressed in the neighbouring State, we have still the sickening vestiges of this custom. The vetoing of the Nambudiri Bill twice and the Thiyya Bill shows how the wind blows.

As I said before I am not going on the present occasion to enter into a minute and detailed examination of the contents of this year's budget. I mean to refer to a few salient features. It is a rich man's budget for one thing. It is in vain that one looks in it for a sign of relief and hope to the villager. The progress of misery and poverty among the poorest and the vast majority of the people of the State continues unchecked in spite of the reforms that have been proclaimed from the Government house tops and broadcast by the publicity officer. The gulf between the rich and the poor is widening daily. While in British India under the Congress Ministry, ameliorative measures of a far-reaching, nay almost revolutionary character are being pushed on with remarkable rapidity, we in the State seem to be more keen on improving the lot of a few rich and upper middle class. Perhaps it is impossible to expect a radical change in the outlook of the present administration.

**Mr. K. S. Manickam** *(Irinjalakuda)*.—Mr. President, Sir, within the short space of time at my disposal I do not think that it will be possible for me either to set a general discussion on the budget or to consider the various figures which are being alloted in the budget for this year's expenditure. In the alloted time I will try to bring to the attention of the House one or two of the most urgent needs of my constituency and in so doing I wish I may elicit the sympathy of all the Hon'ble Members of this House. Last time at about this time of the year I hastened to congratulate this Government for kindly alloting the sum of Rs. 20,000 for construction of a water communication

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

connecting the town of Irinjalakuda with the backwaters. As the Doctor before me remarks I was rather too hasty in this and I realise it now, and I realise it too late. I never thought at the time when I congratulated the Government that "there is a slip between the cup and the lip". I am not in a position, Sir, knowing as I do the various reasons, to throw the entire blame on the Government. When the scheme was taken into consideration Government insisted that for the capital amount that they are going to invest for the purpose of the construction, they should get a return of 4 per cent on the capital. Insistence on such a return on the capital would mean a very heavy burden to the public of the locality. For one thing, the construction of this channel would not only benefit the public of my constituency but also go a long way in increasing the prosperity of the people residing in and around Irinjalakuda. The new textile factory and various tile factories at Pudukad and various other industrial concerns that are going to spring up in the Taluq of Mukundapuram may benefit themselves to a great extent by means of this communication. Merchants of Mattancherri and Ernakulam may prosper by means of this communication. With all that why should the Government insist on Irinjalakuda being burdened with this imposition? Sir, I take this opportunity to appeal to the administration now to reconsider this question, to alter the burden that they wish to impose upon us and to make the proposed communication a *fait accompli*.

Sir, reference was made here by one or two speakers to the Town Improvement plan launched upon by Government now. I, for one, feel that the Government of the day is right in launching upon schemes for the improvement of the towns of Ernakulam and Trichur. It is only in consonance with the demands of the time. I should congratulate the Government upon such a procedure and I hope the Government will be extending their operation to the towns like Chittur, Wadakkancheri and last but not least Irinjalakuda. I only wish to draw the attention of the Government that having proceeded with the Towns of Ernakulam and Trichur, they ought not to stop at that. They should proceed with the improvements of the above Towns also.

As regards my town a new Municipality has been constituted to look after the civic needs of the Town. If immediately the improvement of the Town planning is not settled down the Town may extend itself in a haphazard manner and time may come when a well laid out plan of Town improvement cannot

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be worked out without impairing the beauty of the town concerned. I request the Government that they will not fail in taking up this useful work at once and they will model this Town of Irinjalakuda to be the pride of the whole State by using the best workmanship of the Chief Engineer and his staff.

Sir, before concluding I would refer to a question pointedly referred to during the course of the discussion namely the 'Federation'. As one of the members of the special committee who had the honour to join the deliberations of the Federation, I can without divulging the various recommendations made by the non-official members, assure the members who feel any hesitation in feeling whether Cochin will stand to benefit by joining the Federation, that their feelings have no basis. For, the question of Federation was threshed out in its minutest detail both by the Committee and by the President Sir Shanmukham himself. Every safeguard for Cochin has been stressed and imposed upon and the memorandum submitted after consultation with the non-official Committee has safeguarded every interest of Cochin and if the memorandum is being accepted by the Government of India, Cochin will not have any reason to consider that she has lost anything by joining the Federation.

Sir, I cannot conclude without paying a great tribute to the Diwan for the Statesmanslike step he has taken in asking the non-official members of this Council to sit in deliberation over the memorandum submitted by the Government to the Government of India. I cannot but resist the temptation of quoting a leader in the Hindu which has said that "the wise step on the part of the Cochin Diwan will be a moral which every other State can follow well" and legitimately may Cochin pride herself in the fact that she has led the way in the unification of 'greater India'.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew** *(Kunnamkulam).*—What about the other passages in the Hindu?

**Mr. C. P. Lonappan** *(Commerce and Industries).*— Mr. President, Sir, may I at the outset convey to the Diwan the warm felicitations of my constituents on the extension of his period of office as Diwan. Though the Budget that has been so ably presented by the Hon'ble Member for Finance is apparently a surplus budget, we are not very much impressed by it, judging from our experience of the previous years. The budget for the year 1112 was framed with a surplus of Rs. 46,000; but the revised estimates indicate a deficit of Rs. 3·50 lakhs. For the coming year 1113 the Budget has been prepared with a surplus of Rs. 1·83

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lakhs; but I do not propose to congratulate the Government before knowing whether ultimately it is going to be a surplus Budget after all.

The Finance Member in his explanatory memorandum says that for the coming year the estimates of receipts would maintain themselves or even show an increase owing to the 'upward trend in economic conditions'. But may I remind the Hon'ble Member that the economic depression is still continuing in the State and that the measures so far adopted to tide over its evil consequences are not adequate. Prices of paddy, cocoanut, arecanut and other staple produces of this country have still remained stagnant without showing any appreciable "upward trend". Though the Land Mortgage Bank and Debt Conciliation Board are grappling with the problem of rural indebtedness, our agriculturists are still suffering from the pangs of the widespread economic depression. Under the circumstances, a substantial remission in land tax would have lessened the crushing burden on the poor and long-suffering ryots; but the Government have not thought it necessary even to restore the 12½ per cent remission in land tax which was stopped in the current year though a strong volume of non-official opinion had expressed itself in favour of the continuance of the remission of the tax on the occasion of the last budget discussion.

Nor is the plight of the merchants and industrialists in any way better. They are also hard hit by the prevailing economic depression and depend very much on the help and protection of the Government. They naturally view the imposition of the income-tax and the recent enhancement of its rates in these difficult times, as involving serious hardships on them. Besides, our traders are not familiar with keeping their accounts on up-to-date lines and are not, therefore, able to furnish profit and loss accounts to the satisfaction of the Department. In such cases the income-tax officers inflict great hardships on businessmen by imposing summary and arbitrary assessment. In the interests of trade and commerce, I would request the Government to show for some years to come every possible leniency in the matter of the assessment and collection of taxes.

The appointment of Sir Shanmukham Chetty as our Diwan gave us all great hopes that our State will progress very much on the industrial side. Being a brilliant financier and able industrialist, it was hoped that the development of the industrial resources of the State would receive his close and personal attention. Judging from what he has accomplished during the short period he was at the helm of the State, we have reason to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

believe that our expectations in him would be fulfilled and that his regime will usher in an era of commercial and industrial awakening in our State. The programme of industrial expansion and the development of the means of communication sketched out in his opening speech, indicates a bold and active policy in this direction and augurs well for the trade and commerce of the State. The conversion of the Railway into the Broad Gauge and the emergence of Cochin as a major port, have made Cochin 'the Gate-way' of the commerce of South India. Your proposal to link Trichur with Kollengode by a Railway line and to open a Ghaut Road to the Anamallais will add considerably to the export trade of Cochin and its revenues. But may I remind the Government that for the development of the internal trade of the State, facilities for water transport are a more vital and pressing need than even the opening of roads and railways. Cochin has an excellent system of natural waterways which enabled merchants from very early times to transport their merchandise at very cheap rates; but with the advent of the railway, these waterways have generally fallen into disuse. Trichur has long been wanting a direct communication with Cochin and Mattancheri through a waterway, which will enable her merchants to bring down their goods cheaply. But so far, their prayer has not been granted. May I request the Government to put off no longer the construction of this canal, so vitally affecting the prosperity of our future; and the House, I am sure, will be glad to sanction the necessary money-grant for this undertaking.

Before I dwell at length on the general question of the industrialisation of the State, may I, Sir, crave your indulgence to refer to a few other pressing needs of our town of Trichur. The question of the electrification of the town is now an accomplished fact.

The availability of cheap electric power will, I am sure, not only add considerably to the social amenities of the town, but will be taken advantage of by the mill-owners, and will encourage the growth of small industries. There is, however, a more pressing need and that is an adequate supply of good drinking water in the hot months of the year, when many of our wells get dried up. We are glad to know from the Diwan-President's opening address that the Government intend to execute in the immediate future the diversion of the Naduthode River, which will assure an abundant supply of good drinking water.

In my last budget speech, I had suggested the need for a bold and comprehensive industrial and commercial policy to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

promote the material welfare of the State. Cochin is endowed by nature with very fine natural resources, and yet owing to indifference on the part of the Government and absence of economic enterprise on the part of the people, nothing has been done hitherto to utilise these natural advantages for the economic betterment of the State. Without the expansion of trade and industries, it will not be possible to solve the problem of unemployment and growing social distress among the people. It is, therefore, very assuring to find in his opening speech that the Government have at long last realised the urgent necessity of carrying out a vigorous industrial programme. But an industrial survey of the State with a view to exploring all avenues of industrial expansion and the establishment of a commercial intelligence bureau to gather statistical information for the benefit of merchants, are still necessary preliminaries to the carrying out of any succcessful industrial programme. With regard to the Stoneware Factory the Government did well to treat it as a commercial department and publish a profit and loss account balance sheet. It is, however, to be regretted that the concern is even now working at a loss. Though the Government have been in possession of the Tanneries for the past 5 years, it is to be regretted that the Government have not succeeded so far either to revive or dispose of it.

It is, however, gratifying to note that the Government intend to start a Paper Factory and also render all help in the export of cashewnuts, which are very much in demand in foreign countries. But these will touch only the fringe of our industrial problem. As the commerce representative in this Legislative Council, may I once again convey to the Government the willingness of the businessmen in Cochin to take the fullest advantage of the commercial and industrial possibilities now opened out to them, provided the Government could render them all possible help in this direction. The establishment of the Cochin Textiles Ltd, at Puducad, will no doubt, give work to about 500 people daily. But there are thousands and thousands more without any employment in the country. These unemployed can be absorbed only if more business enterprises are started.

*(The Hon'ble the President occupied the Chair at this stage.)*

മിസ്റ്റർ പോപ്പട്ടലാൽഗോവർദ്ധനലാലൻ (*Mattancheri North*):— മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡൻറ് സർ, പ്രസംഗിക്കുന്നതിനു മുമ്പ് മിനിട്ടുനേരം മാത്രം അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അതിനകമായി എന്റെ നിയോ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ സംഗതികൾ മുഴുവൻ പറയാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

സർ, അറേബ്യൻ കടലിന്റെ രാജ്ഞി മട്ടാഞ്ചേരി ടൗൺ ആണെന്നുള്ള വലിയ പേരും പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ആ പട്ടണത്തിലെ ചില വിശേഷങ്ങളെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുവാനാണ് ഞാൻ രണ്ടുവാക്കു പറയാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിൽ ഉദ്ദേശം ഒരു ലക്ഷത്തോളം ഉറുപ്പിക ചിലവാക്കി വലിയതമ്പുരാൻ തിരുമനസ്സിലെ പേരിൽ ഒരു ഹാസ്പിറ്റൽ പണിയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ അതിന്റെ ചരിത്രം കേൾക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ വളരെ രസകരമായിരിക്കും.

ഈ കൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റു നോക്കിയാൽ, അവിടെ ചുറ്റും വേലികെട്ടുവാനായിട്ട് ഫൻവ്വ ഉറുപ്പികയാണ് അനുവദിച്ചുകാണുന്നത്. ഈ തുകയുടെ വലിപ്പം നോക്കുമ്പോൾ അവിടെ ഒരു മുള്ളുവേലി കെട്ടുവാൻ മാത്രമെ മതിയാകയുള്ളൂ എന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഒരു ആശുപത്രിയുടെ ചുറ്റും മുള്ളുവേലികെട്ടിയാൽ മതിയാകുമെന്നാണെങ്കിൽ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശം എത്രത്തോളം നല്ലതാണെന്നു ഊഹിക്കുവാൻ പ്രയാസമില്ല. ഇതുമൂലം രോഗികൾക്കു പലേകഷ്ടപ്പാടുകളും ഉണ്ടാകുവാനാണ് ഇടയുള്ളത്. ക്രൂടാതെ അതിനുചുറ്റുമുള്ള തറകൾ (നിലങ്ങൾ) നിരപ്പാക്കാത്തതു നിമിത്തം പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളും കുണ്ടുകളും കുഴികളും ആയിരിക്കുന്നതു കാരണം വർഷക്കാലത്തു വെള്ളം കെട്ടിനില്ക്കുകയും ജന്തുക്കളും മറ്റും ധാരാളം ഉണ്ടായി പലവിധ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൾക്കും ഇടയാകുന്ന ഒരു സ്ഥലമായിട്ടാണ് തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇപ്രകാരം ജന്തുക്കളെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചാൽ വാതപ്പനി ഇല്ലാത്ത രോഗികൾക്കുകൂടി വാതപ്പനി പിടിപെടുവാനും മറുതരത്തിൽ പലവിധ കഷ്ടതകൾ നേരിടുവാനും സംഗതിയാകും എന്നുള്ള കാര്യത്തിൽ വകുപ്പുദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ പ്രത്യേകം ചിന്തിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാനപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. അതു ക്രൂടാതെ അവിടവിടെയുള്ള ചെറിയ കെട്ടിടങ്ങളിൽ അങ്ങോട്ടും ഇങ്ങോട്ടും പോകുവാനുള്ള സൗകര്യത്തിനുവേണ്ട ചേർപ്പുവഴികളില്ല. നേഴ്സസ് കപ്പാർട്ടേഴ്സും അവിടെയില്ല, Payward-ം അവിടെയില്ല. ഇതൊന്നും ഇല്ലെങ്കിലും സാധുക്കൾക്കുവേണ്ടി വലിയതമ്പുരാൻ തിരുമനസ്സിൽ നിന്നും ധർമ്മമായിട്ടു നിശ്ചയിച്ചു നടത്തിവരുന്ന ആ ആസ്പത്രിയെ വെറും ഒരു Poor house എന്ന നിലയിൽ ധർമ്മശാലയെപ്പോലെ നടത്തുവാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നതായാൽ വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണ്. അതിനു ചുറ്റുമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ നിരപ്പാക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനു വളരെ അധികം പണച്ചിലവുണ്ടായിരിക്കുകയില്ല. അടുത്തുള്ള രാമേശ്വരം കനാലിൽ നിന്നെടുക്കുന്ന മണൽ വിറ്റു പണം സമ്പാദിക്കുന്നതിനെ നിറുത്തി ആ മണൽ ഇതിനു ചുറ്റും കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടു ലവൽ ശരിയാക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ഈ ആശുപത്രിയിൽ ജന്തുക്കൾ വരാതെ സൂക്ഷിക്കാമായിരുന്നു. ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഇതുപോലുള്ള ചിലകാര്യ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ങ്ങൾ നിറുത്തിവച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ കൂട്ടത്തിൽ ഈ ആശുപത്രിയുടെ കാര്യവും നിർത്തിവച്ചിരിക്കുകയാണെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നത്. ഫ്രഫസ്സർ-ാം കൊല്ലം ശാസ്ത്രീയമായ ചില ദോഷങ്ങൾ ഉള്ളതാണെന്നു നെല്ലായിമെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിക്കും ദോഷങ്ങൾ വന്നതായിരിക്കണം എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. ഏതായാലും മുമ്പു് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതരത്തിലുള്ള ഒരു ആശുപത്രിയാണു് അടുത്ത ഒരു തിയതിൽ ഉൽഘാടനം ചെയ്യാൻ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അതിനു മുമ്പു് ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ സ്ഥലത്തുവന്നു ആ ആശുപത്രി ഒന്നു സന്ദർശിക്കുവാനായി ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഇത്തരത്തിലുള്ള ഒരു ഹാസ്പിറ്റൽ ആണു് അവിടെ നടത്തുവാൻ. വിചാരിക്കുന്നതെങ്കിൽ അതിൽ ഭേദം ആ സ്ഥലം പൊല്ലീസുകാക്കു തടവുകാരെ പിടിച്ചിടുവാനോ Poor house നടത്തുവാനോ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കും. മട്ടാഞ്ചേരി മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റി പണം ചിലവിടുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുകയില്ലെന്നുള്ള കാരണം പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടു നാല്പതിനായിരത്തിൽ ചിലപ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങൾ നിവസിക്കുന്ന മട്ടാഞ്ചേരി പട്ടണത്തിലെ സാധുജനങ്ങളെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിക്കുന്നതു ശരിയായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്റെ കീഴിൽ ഭരണം നടത്തുന്ന ഒരു മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റി ഇതിനു സമ്മതിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ പിന്നെ ആരാണ് ഇതു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതെന്നു് എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയും മറും Contribute ചെയ്യുന്നതു കൂടാതെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും നേരിട്ടു ഏറെറടുത്തു ചെയ്യാനുള്ള പല കാര്യങ്ങളും മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിലുണ്ട്. കുറെ മാസങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പു മട്ടാഞ്ചേരി ജൂടൗണിലുള്ള ഗേൾസ് സ്കൂൾ അവിടെ നിന്നും മാറേണ്ട കാര്യത്തിൽ വേണ്ടസഹായം ചെയ്യാമെന്നു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമേലധ്യക്ഷൻ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ഈ വക സംഗതികൾക്കു പലപ്പോഴും മറുപടി പറയുക മാത്രമല്ലാതെ യാതൊന്നും പ്രവൃത്തിയിൽ വരുത്തിക്കണ്ടില്ല.

ടി. ഡി. ഹൈസ്കൂളിനെപ്പററിയും പല അവസരങ്ങളിലും പല പ്രമേയങ്ങളും ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അഗ്രഹാരങ്ങൾക്കും, ക്ഷേത്രങ്ങൾക്കും ഉള്ളിൽവച്ചു കുട്ടികളെ പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ അവിടെ പ്രവേശനമില്ലാത്തവർക്കു വലിയ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിനിടയാകുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു പലപ്പോഴും ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഈ വക സംഗതികളിൽ ഇനിയും ഗവർമ്മെൻറു കണ്ണു തുറക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഞാൻ വളരെ സങ്കടപ്പെടുന്നു. മറുപല സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനുവേണ്ടി നിരവധി പണം ചിലവാക്കുകയും ഇവിടെനിന്നു നികുതി മാത്രം പിരിച്ചെടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്റെ കഠിനമായ മനസ്ഥിതിയെ ഇനിയെങ്കിലും മാററി കണ്ണുതുറക്കുകയില്ലേ എന്നാണു ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു്. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡൻറു് അവർകളുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ടേഡ് ആഫ് ദിപോട്ട് എന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിൽനിന്നു ചില സംഗതികൾ പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഇവിടെ ഇറക്കുന്ന ച

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

രക്കുകളുടേയും പുറം രാജ്യങ്ങളിലേക്കു കയറ്റുമതി ചെയ്യപ്പെടുന്ന ചരക്കുകളുടേയും തോതു നോക്കിയാൽ ഇവിടത്തെ പോർട്ടിൽ ഇറക്കുന്ന ചരക്കുകൾ വളരെ കുറവായിട്ടാണു കാണപ്പെടുന്നതു്. കപ്പലിൽ നിന്നും കടവിലേക്കും ഗോഡൗണിലേക്കും മറ്റും നിസ്സാരമായ ലാഭം വാങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടാണു — ലാൻറിംഗ് ചാർജസ് വസൂൽചെയ്തു — ചരക്കുകൾ ഇറക്കുന്നതു്. ഇൻകംടാക്സ് ആഫീസിൽ നോക്കിയാൽ ഇതിന്റെ ശരിയായ കണക്കു അറിയുന്നതിനു പ്രയാസമില്ല.

ചരക്കിനു വില കിട്ടുന്നു എന്നു പറഞ്ഞ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഒരു സംഗതി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുണ്ടു്. കൊച്ചിയിൽ ഇറക്കുന്ന ചരക്കിന്റേയും കോഴിക്കോട്ടു ഇറക്കുന്ന ചരക്കിന്റേയും വിലയിൽ വ്യത്യാസമുണ്ടു്. അതുവരാതിരിക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടി റയിൽവേ ചാർജ്ജു കുറയ്ക്കുണ്ടകാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ പലപ്പോഴും കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിനൊരു നിവാരണമുണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു ശ്രമിക്കാതെ വെറുതെ മറ്റുള്ളവരെ കുറ്റപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ന്യായമായ ഒരു പരിഹാരം വരുത്താതിരുന്നാൽ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ട കൊച്ചിയിലെ ചരക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോകുവാൻ പുറമെ നിന്നും ആരും വരുകയുമില്ല. ഈ കാര്യം ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവമ്മെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം ചിന്തിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

മീററർഗേജു് ബ്രാഡ്ഗേജു് ആക്കിയപ്പോൾ റയിൽവെചാർജ്ജു കുറക്കേണ്ടതിനുപകരം കൂട്ടുതൽ ആക്കിയിരിക്കുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഇതാണോ നമ്മുടെ റയിൽവേയുടെ നടത്തിപ്പു് എന്നു ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു. അടുത്തുള്ള രാജ്യങ്ങളുടെ കഥനോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ സ്റ്റേററിൽ ഉള്ള പോർട്ടുകൾ ഒന്നും നന്നാക്കേണ്ടതില്ലെന്നും കൊച്ചിൻ പോർട്ടിൽ പങ്കു കിട്ടിയാൽ മതിയാകുമെന്നും നിസ്സാരമായ തുകകൊട്ടുത്തും വലിയ, വലിയ തുകകൾ കൊണ്ടുപോകാമെന്നും കരുതി ആ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു ഇപ്പോൾ ആലപ്പുഴയിലും, കൊല്ലത്തും, കുളച്ചലിലും ചരക്കുകൾ ഇറക്കുന്നില്ലേ? ഈ കാര്യത്തെക്കുറിച്ചു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവർമ്മെൻറു ചിന്തിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ? വാണിജ്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി പറയുമ്പോൾ അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു തീരെശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുവാൻ പ്രയാസമില്ലാത്തതാണു്. ഇന്നു ലോകത്തിലുള്ള സ്വതന്ത്രരാജ്യങ്ങളും നല്ലനിലയിൽ എത്തീട്ടുള്ളതു കച്ചവടത്തിന്റേയും, കൈത്തൊഴിലിന്റേയും അഭിവൃദ്ധികൊണ്ടാണു്. ഇത്രത്തോളം ഗംഭീരമായ ഒരു ബഡ്ജറുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനും വാണിജ്യത്തിന്റേയും, കൈത്തൊഴിലിന്റേയും സഹായമില്ലാതെ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല. ഇതിൽ ഒരിക്കലും രണ്ടഭിപ്രായം ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുമെന്നും എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. കച്ചവടവിഷയത്തിൽ ശരിയായ ഒരു സ്റ്റേററിസ്റ്റിക്സ് എടുക്കുവാനുള്ള യാതൊരു ഏർപ്പാടും നമ്മുടെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. ഒരു പബ്ലിസിററി ബ്യൂറോ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തുണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ നാം ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്ന സംഗതികൾക്കുള്ള സ്റ്റാററസ്റ്റിക്സ് നമുക്കു് അതുവഴി കിട്ടുമായിരുന്നു.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

അതിലേക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ഏർപ്പാട് തീരെ മതിയാകുന്നില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ ഇതിൽ നിയമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടി ഇന്നത്തേതിലും കൂടുതൽ ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ പതിയുമെങ്കിൽ ഇന്നു ലോകത്തിൽ നടക്കുന്ന മിക്ക സംഗതികളും പ്രയാസം കൂടാതെ നമുക്കു മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു അഡ്വൈസറിക്കമ്മിറ്റിയെ ഈ സഭയിൽനിന്നും തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ കമ്മറ്റിയിൽ കൊച്ചി മട്ടാഞ്ചേരി, തൃശ്ശൂർ എന്നീ ചേമ്പറുകളിൽ നിന്നും ഓണറ്റിയായി കച്ചവടക്കാരായ മെമ്പർമാരെ നിയമിച്ചാൽ അവരുടെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളും കൂടി അറിയുവാൻ പ്രയാസമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഓണറ്റിയായി ഇതിൽ വേലചെയ്യുന്നതിനു മനസ്സുള്ള ആളുകൾ ധാരാളമുണ്ട്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ളവരെ ഇതിൽ മെമ്പർമാരായി വച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ അവർക്ക് വാണിജ്യത്തെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുവാനും അതിനുവേണ്ടി പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുവാനും സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവർമ്മെന്റിൽ യെിൽവെ ബോർഡിലേക്കു ഒരു അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥ പ്രതിനിധിയെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടു വളരെക്കാലമായി. അതുപോലെതന്നെ കൊച്ചി ഗവർമ്മെൻറും ഇവിടത്തെ ബോർഡിലേക്കു അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെക്കൂടി അംഗങ്ങളായിചേർക്കണമെന്നു ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടും അക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു ഇതുവരെ യാതൊന്നും ചിന്തിച്ചിട്ടപോലുമില്ല. ഈ കാര്യത്തിലും ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്റെ പ്രത്യേക ശ്രദ്ധയെ ഞാൻ ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

മട്ടാഞ്ചേരി പട്ടണത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിയെക്കുറിച്ചു കണ്ടറിയുവാൻ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ എന്നോടുകൂടി അവിടെ വന്നാൽ കൊള്ളാമായിരുന്നു. പക്ഷെ ടി. ഏ. യും മറ്റും വാങ്ങി അവിടെ വരുവാൻ അവർക്ക് സമ്മതമില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു അവിടത്തെ കഷ്ടപ്പാടുകളെക്കുറിച്ചു യാതൊന്നും അറിയുവാൻ അവർക്കിടയായിട്ടില്ല.

മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ കിരീടധാരണം നടത്തുന്നതു മട്ടാഞ്ചേരി പട്ടണത്തിൽവച്ചാണ്. ഡൽഹി പട്ടണത്തിൽ എന്തിനാണ് ഇത്രവളരെപണം ചിലവാക്കുന്നതെന്നു നിങ്ങൾ ധരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ? എന്തിനുവേണ്ടിയാണ് അവിടെ കൊച്ചിൻ ഹൗസ് പണിയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു എന്നു നിങ്ങൾ മനസ്സിലാക്കീട്ടുണ്ടോ? നേരെ മറിച്ചു മട്ടാഞ്ചേരി പട്ടണത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതി നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ എത്ര ശോചനീയമാണെന്നു നമ്മുടെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു ചിന്തിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണ്. നാലുതിനായിരം രൂപ ചിലവാക്കി തൃശ്ശൂരിൽ ഒരു ടൗൺഹാൾ പണിയിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഏറണാകുളത്തും പല പല പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളും നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ളവരുടെ കാര്യം മാത്രം നോക്കി മറ്റുള്ളവരെ ശോഷിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു ശരിയാണോ? (ചിരി) അതുകൊണ്ടു മറ്റുള്ളവരുടെ രക്തത്തെ പുഷ്ടിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതുപോലെ മട്ടാഞ്ചേരി പട്ടണത്തിലെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യത്തിലും വേണ്ടതുചെയ്തു അവരുടെ രക്തത്തെ പുഷ്ടിപ്പെടുത്തുവാനും ആരോഗ്യത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാനും ദൃഷ്ടിപതിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനോടപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

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**Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar** *(Trichur North).*—Mr. President, Sir, it does not look correct nor even edyfying to congratulate the Government on a surplus budget or to condemn them on a deficit budget, on the basis of the figures forecasted by them in the budget estimate. The budget estimate for 1111 M. E. anticipated a surplus of about 70,000 rupees; this anticipation of a surplus was negatived when the revised estimate anticipated a deficit of exceeding Rs. 5½ lakhs, but we now find the year 1111 actually closed with a deficit of only less than one lakh. Take again the year 1110 M. E. The original estimate showed a small surplus of about Rs. 20,000/- and the revised estimate showed a deficit of about 3 lakhs of rupees whereas the year actually ended with a surplus of about Rs. 58,000. The figures in either the original estimate or in the revised estimate do not give any indication as to what the actuals are going to be. We need not therefore be perturbed by the anticipated deficit of 3½ lakhs in the revised estimate for the current year as against the original estimated surplus of about Rs. 46,000 nor should we feel elated by the anticipated surplus of about one lakh and eighty-two thousand rupees for 1113 till the actuals are known.

A surplus budget does not necessarily indicate efficient and economic administration any more than a deficit budget does inefficient and extravagant administration. For instance an increase or decrease in the revenues from customs or Railway—in the administration of both of which our Government have not much to do—may easily convert a deficit budget into a surplus one or vice versa. Nor is a surplus budget an indication of the yogic powers possessed by the Diwan to turn everything he touches into gold as the Honourable Finance Member of a sister State would have us belive. Our Finance Member also in my opinion commits a mistake in thinking that the small increases in the revenues from Income-tax and Stamps indicate the growing prosperity of the people; the former is rightly due to more and more efficient control resulting in minimising evasions of payment and the latter may be due to more change of hands of properties, for liquidation of debts.

I now proceed to make certain observations on the financial condition of the State as disclosed by the budget figures before us. The financial position of the State is very sound and stable. A reference to page V of the Budget will show that our assets, taking into account only remunerative assets,

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exceed our liabilities by about 107 lakhs. But the annual receipts as compared with the expenditure is not equally satisfactory and it therefore behoves us to find out ways and means of increasing the receipts or decreasing the expediture or doing both. Without taking into account either the expenditure on or the receipts from (1) customs (2) Railway (3) Tramway and (4) Matches, the ordinary items of expenditure, necessary to carry on the day to day administration of the State, amount to about an average of 86 lakhs of rupees per year whereas the ordinary receipts amount to only about an average of 58 lakhs of rupees. We therefore require about 28 lakhs of rupees more every year to make both ends meet and for this we have to look to customs, Railway, and matches, as tramway seems to be only a source of drain judging from the actuals for the years 1109, 1110, 1111 and the revised estimate for 1112 and the estimate for 1113. From customs we have now been getting about 20 lakhs of rupees and matches give about half a lakh and Railway about 6 lakhs, making a total of about 26½ lakhs against 28 lakhs required. We therefore still require about 1½ lakhs of rupees per annum to make both ends meet. Not only that! We require still more. Apart from the loan taken from the British Government, the State loans now amount to 105 lakhs against which the Sinking fund at the end of the current year will amount to about 3½ lakhs. We have therefore to create a further sinking fund to the extent of about 101½ lakhs before the end of 1960 i. e. in about 23 years; a provision of about 4½ lakhs of rupees per annum must therefore be made for sinking fund whereas it is now found possible to provide only about Rs. 75,000. About 3¾ lakhs more are therefore required for sinking fund every year. We therefore require an extra income of 3¾ plus 1½ or about 5¼ lakhs of rupees per year. No doubt we shall get some substantial increases in the years to come from Harbour and Railways but it must be remembered that they involve more financial commitment also. It will therefore be good administrator-ship to look to other sources for making the required extra income of 5¼ lakhs per annum or we must try to reduce our expenditure to that extent. In this connection, Sir I have to make a very serious suggestion to you. We are now paying an annual subsidy of 2 lakhs of rupees to the British Government. It looks rather anomalous that we should be invited to join the Federatian and at the same time asked to continue to pay the subsidy. Even if the other States joining the Federation are not going to be exempted from payment of the subsidy, we have a special claim

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

for such exemption. Have we not made heavy sacrifices in the matter of the Cochin Harbour leading to enormous increase in the revenue of the British Government without involving any corresponding expenditure or risk. Which other State has done like that ? Sir I feel certain that if you move in the matter with that tenacious pertinacity that is characteristic of you, we shall get relief from payment of the subsidy and it would then be necessary to make up only 3½ lakhs. How shall we do it? The retrenchment committee have made various proposals all of which if given effect to will certainly result in a 'large saving'; what this saving will be, it is not possible to guess with any accuracy from the report of the committee but Dr. A. R. Menon's separate report puts it as nearly 4 lakhs; it may not be practical to give full effect to all the proposals of the committee, but it must be possible to do so at least partly and effect a saving of at least 2 lakhs annually. A further economy not suggested by the Retrenchment committee, that I have to suggest in all seriousness, is to cut down the travelling allowance of the officers and members of this House from 1½ first class to double 2nd class if not 1½ second class.

With the payment of subsidy relieved and with economies effected according to the proposals of the retrenchment committee to the extent of at least two lakhs of rupees, we would still require about 1½ lakhs to make both ends meet. An intensive industrialization with a definite 3 or 4 year plan must easily bring in an additional revenue of 1½ lakhs of rupees per annum. In this connection, I have to mention that the tackling of the hydro-electric project is an essential condition precedent to any scheme of intensive industrialisation and I hope you will ere long tackle the hydro-electric scheme in all earnestness. A few remarks about the budgetting methods now adopted may not be out of place at this juncture. I know it is the privilege of all Government budgets to abound in puzzles and I also know that it will be most difficult to present the budget, every portion of it, in a way clearly understandable to those who are not well acquainted with budget casting methods. But I think it can be made much more intelligible than what it is now. I shall cite just a few instances. One would naturally think that the difference between the opening balance and the closing balance in general-investments-account would represent the amount of investments withdrawn in that year. A reference to page V will show that the difference between such opening balance in 1112 and the estimated

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closing balance is only about 10 and odd lakhs. But the figure under Investments withdrawn in the revised estimate of 1112, is 38 and odd lakhs. The puzzle was explained to me by the Finance Member and it is quite intelligible to me now. There are half-a-dozen other instances which I have noted down but which I am not citing for want of time. I shall now pass on to make some general observations.

(1) No provision is now being made for depreciation on Railway though it has been shown as an asset valued at 71 and odd lakhs of rupees. The practice with other State-Railways seems to be to provide for an annual depreciation amounting to about 1/60th of the investment. A railway depreciation fund must be opened and provision to the extent of 1/60th of the amount invested in Railways must be made every year for that fund. This is all the more necessary as adequate provision to the Sinking Fund to pay off the State loans, the major portion of which seems to have been invested in Railways is not found possible to be made. It will also be advisable to provide similar depreciation funds for all remunerative assets, for instance, the Government Stoneware works.

(2) According to the revised estimate for the current year, a fall in the net income from railways to the extent of Rs. 1,10,000 is anticipated. This is a serious matter and the causes that have brought about this fall in the revenue from railway should be enquired into. The importance of Trichur as a distributing commercial centre is on the decline and the centre of gravity seems to have been shifted to Palghat. The reason seems to be that Palghat getting her goods through Calicut is able to supply cheaper than Trichur getting her goods through Cochin. If this is true, the loss to us is threefold, loss of revenue to the Cochin Harbour, loss of revenue to our Railway and loss of trade to Trichur. Of one thing I am certain. On account of the comparatively higher railway freight lot of goods are being brought to Trichur from Cochin by 'Valloms'. I do not know what sort of control our Government is exercising in the matter of Railway administration but any way without meaning any disparagement to the present management, I think it will be wise to have one of our own officers closely associated with the audit of railway accounts.

(3) The result of the working of the Government stoneware works is far from satisfactory. In his explanatory memorandum on the budget estimate for the current year, the

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Finance Member has remarked as follows:—"The potteries have not brought profits to the extent anticipated and this explains the fall of Rs. 30,000 now anticipated". Again in his explanatory memorandum on the budget before us, he remarks thus:—"Though a net receipt of Rs. 26,000 was anticipated from the Potteries, the actual working of the year is expected to result in a loss of Rs. 3200". Sir, from such vast differences between the estimated results and the actual results, it is evident that the data available from which the estimates were made are not reliable. The Government stoneware works have demonstrated the possibility of making first class jars that could stand comparison with similar products of any renowned makers. The time has now come to run the concern on a commercial and competitive basis, for which Government is not the suitable body. For, what is now needed to make the concern a success is to cut down the cost of production by increasing the output and effecting all round economies and to arrange for efficient marketing; both these involve doing a hundred and one things which a Government is ill-adapted to do. I have very good reasons to believe that you will be prepared to consider any reasonable proposal from a commercial body to take up the working of the concern and I have also good reasons to believe that a public company in Trichur is contemplating to submit such proposals to you shortly.

(4) The reduction of the provision for leave allowance by 50 per cent will, I am afraid, work much hardship on the Government servants.

(5) It is indeed very gratifying to note that a beginning has been made to attempt at what is popularly termed as 'rural reconstruction' though the amount provided for Viz. Rs. 6000 is very meagre. Every year three villages must be taken up and must be made to serve as models for the other villages. Work of improving these model villages must be in the direction of formation of approach roads, construction of drains, construction of maternity homes, provision of good drinking water, provision of medical aid and encouragement of home industries like bee-keeping, poultry farming and dairying. Every village must have a school and a small reading room and library. There must be a grocer's shop also, worked on a co-operative basis, and, to use an overworked expression, 'prohibition must be gradually enforced.' Where villages are situated at some distance from police stations, organisation of vigilance committees for the protection of property and person

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will be very helpful. Progress of rural reconstruction is bound to be slow but steady and systematic work must be carried on.

(6) The condition of our agricultural ryots is far from being satisfactory; their indebtedness is sucking their very life blood. The need for ameliorating their condition cannot be too strongly stressed. Though I was in the beginning a bit diffident in the success of the Land Mortgage Bank, it is indeed very gratifying to note that within the short time of its existence it has done very good service and we are deeply indebted to you, Sir, for the bold and prompt steps taken by you in starting the Land Mortgage Bank. The formation of debt conciliation boards will also be of considerable help in relieving rural indebtedness but still, more substantial help should be rendered to the ryot if he is to live. The fact sir, is that agriculture in its present mode has ceased to be remunerative. It is idle to expect an agriculturist to be able to make any surplus income from his lands to liquidate his debts. It will be too long before he finds it feasible to take to the so called scientific methods of agriculture and do more than, to use the words of Goldsmith, 'merely forcing a churlish soil for scanty bread'. Part time occupation in cottage industries seems to be a very good solution to relieve rural indebtedness. In this as well as in many other respects, we can learn much from Japan. The Japanese Government have, by cheap power, motor transport and automatic machines, brought small scale industries to the door of the agriculturists who form nearly half her population and who, from land alone, are deriving only a meagre sustenance. It is not generally known that one half of the workers in industries in Japan are employed in workshops employing fewer than 5 persons. 45 per cent of her cotton textile exports and a very large portion of her exports in rayon, woolen goods, electric filament lamps, rubber goods, even cement and cycles, are from her small scale industries, and manufactures in other countries are really affected in competition more by these small scale industries than by the big industrial concerns. Here is a striking proof of what a determined Government can do to enable the agriculturists to eke out a subsidiary income from home industries. I would go to the length of saying that it would be worth while to appoint a Special Officer to go into the question of these cottage industries and to find out ways and means to bring them to the door of the agriculturists. The task is by no means easy but it is worth attempting.

A few words about jails and then I pass on to matters of special importance to Trichur which I have the honour to represent in this House. If ever I am destined to go to a jail,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

not as an honorary visitor which I am already, but as an inmate of it, and if the choice is left to me, I would unhesitatingly prefer the Central Jail at Trichur. Everything is there to make the prisoners as comfortable as possible, except sufficient accommodation, with the result that at times even more than two persons are locked up in the same cell which is against all canons of jail administration. It seems that at times even different classes of prisoners are locked up together in the same cell. Pointed attention to this matter has been repeatedly drawn by the honorary visitors and I was disappointed to see that no provision has been made in the budget before us for improving and enlarging the accommodation for prisoners. Sir, the matter is a serious one and I hope Government will not continue to wink at it. The sub-jail in Trichur is situated in a hopelessly damned locality surrounded on one side by the fish market and on two sides by awfully stinking drains. Hon'ble Members of this House who have had the misfortune to spend even a night there will bear out my statement. The building is all right but the locality is hopelessly bad. Speaking about jail administration I am reminded of the fact that no arrangement exists in our State to give special treatment to an undertrial political prisoner, whatever his social status, mode of living, education, &c. be. In British India, the undertrial prisoners are classified under two heads, specials and ordinary. I would strongly recommend to the Government to introduce the same distinction here also. Good food and good clothing are given to prisoners; they are strong and healthy and many of them are young men. They are not given more than 5 or 6 hours work now whereas factory workers are allowed by law to work 9 hours. More work of a remunerative nature can well be extracted from them without prejudice to their health and it must be possible to make the jails much more self supporting than they are now. Training in agriculture and manufacture of articles which will yield profit to the jails and at the same time enable them to eke out an honest livelihood when they get their freedom must be given to the prisoners.

I now pass on to affairs which loom large in Trichur. I can congratualte neither the Municipality not the Government in the matter of the proposed purchase by the former of the interest of the Cochin State Power and Light Corporation Ltd., as far as the Trichur license is concerned, though I appreciate the underlying motive therefor. It will serve absolutely no useful purpose to enter into the details of this question at this belated hour but if the purchase by the Municipality will ultimately result in the imposition of heavier taxation in the Trichur

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Municipality than in the other Municipalities where no such purchase is made, the Trichur tax payer's plight will indeed be then pitiable. For a Municipality which, to justify its existence has yet to spend lakhs of rupees on drainage, adequate water supply, roads and improving the general sanitation of the town, the experiment is certainly risky. I know opinion is sharply divided as to whether the undertaking will prove a real asset to the Municipality or turn out to be a white elephant. It may ultimately prove a real asset to the Municipality even as the Pykara Hydro electric project which at one time came in for very sever criticism has proved a real asset to the Madras Government. But there is this difference. A Government can take risks whereas a Municipality which has yet to shoulder lot of financial burdens cannot afford to take risks. Sir, I may be wrong but I am really nervous about the result of the Municipality undertaking such an onerous task. Dealing with the proposals for opening up the Anamali-Pollachi road at an estimated cost of about 3 or 4 lakhs, you are reported to have taken up the position, the correct position, that the Government would be prepared to invest the necessary funds only if a return of at least 3½ per cent is guaranteed by the primarily interested persons in the scheme. I take it, Sir, that you would not have made up your mind to permit the Municipality to take up such a heavy responsibility unless you have satisfied yourself that it will be possible for the Municipality to get return of at least 3½ per cent on the capital invested after providing adequate depreciation. I therefore suggest and pray that Government be pleased to purchase the concern and work it for a few years and then, after satisfying themselves and the Municipality that at least a return of 3½ per cent can be got after making adequate provision for depreciation, to hand it over to the Municipality, the amount invested by the Government being then treated as a loan to the Municipality carrying 3¼ per cent interest. I am not opposed to the imposition of a lighting tax for the creation of a sinking fund to discharge the loan but I strongly object to the imposition of any such tax to meet any portion of the working expenses or the depreciation to be provided for or the interest on the loan. It is not unknown to you, sir, that the concensus of expert opinion as could be gathered from the replies to the questionnaire issued by the Electricity Board appointed by the Madras Government is that Government is the suitable agency for generation but distribution should be left in the hands of local bodies. Another reason that I have to urge against the Municipality taking up

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the concern is, it is not wise for any Municipality to extend its operations beyond the Municipal area.

I next pass on to another burning problem of the day, in Trichur. It is literally a burning one in the summer months. The cry of no water to water the roads, no water to clean the drains, no good water to bathe in, and no sufficient water even to drink, can be heard far and wide in Trichur in the summer months. In reply to my cry for water for Trichur the Chief Engineer said as follows "I may assure this House that every effort will be made to put the water supply question in Trichur on a satisfactory footing before long." This was in Karkidakam 1110 M. E. and two long years have since passed. I hereby repeat my cry 'Give us plenty of good water' and perhaps the Chief Engineer will repeat his reply 'It will be given before long.' I ask 'When' and I thought echo would answer 'When'; but I am now very glad to note from the Diwan's speech that the investigation relating to a satisfactory water supply to Trichur from Naduthodu river is complete and let me hope that at least for the summer of 1114 M. E. water from Naduthodu river will be available in Trichur.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ (*Ezhuvas South*).—ബഡ്ജറിലെ കണക്കുകളെപ്പറ്റി ഞാൻ നിരൂപണം ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല. പത്തുകൊല്ലക്കാലം ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടായ നിരൂപണങ്ങൾകൊണ്ട് യാതൊരു മാറ്റവും വന്നിട്ടില്ല. ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥപക്ഷത്തുനിന്നുള്ള ആക്ഷേപങ്ങൾ ഇല്ലാതാകണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ബഡ്ജറു രൂപീകരിക്കാനുള്ള അധികാരം അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥപക്ഷത്തിനു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. ഒരു വേള ഇപ്പോഴത്തേതിലും മോശമായിട്ടായിരിക്കാം അവർ രൂപീകരിക്കുന്നതെങ്കിലും ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ മാതിരി ആക്ഷേപം ഉണ്ടാകയില്ല. ഇപ്പോഴും അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥഭാഗത്തുനിന്നു ഗവൺമെൻറിനെ ആക്ഷേപിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നവർക്ക് അധികാരം കിട്ടുമ്പോൾ ഈ വക ആക്ഷേപങ്ങൾ അവരെപ്പറ്റിയും പറയുവാൻ ഇടവന്നേക്കും. ഇപ്പോൾ നിങ്ങളെ ആക്ഷേപിക്കുന്നവർ ഇനി ഒരു വേള ആക്ഷേപിക്കപ്പെടുന്നവരാകാം. എങ്കിലും ഇനിയുള്ള കാലങ്ങളിൽ ജനങ്ങൾ ആ രീതികൊണ്ട് തൃപ്തിപ്പെടുകയേയുള്ളൂ. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ മാതിരി ഭരണം എത്രനല്ലനിലയിൽ നടന്നാലും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സമ്മതമാകയില്ല. നമ്മുടെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും, പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളും റോഡുകളും കാഷ്ടിക സഹായങ്ങളും ഗ്രാമീണ ശുദ്ധകളുമെല്ലാം ഇൻഡ്യയിലുള്ള ഏതു ഭാഗവുമായി താരതമ്യം ചെയ്താലും മോശമാണെന്നു പറയുവാൻ പാടില്ലാത്ത നിലയിൽ എത്തീട്ടുണ്ട്. എങ്കിലും അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥഭാഗത്തുനിന്നുള്ള ആക്ഷേപങ്ങൾക്കു ശമനം വരുമെന്നു ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ വിചാരിക്കുണ്ട. എനിക്ക് ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ പറയാനുള്ളതു് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

പള്ളിപ്പുറം മെമ്പർ അവർകൾ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളെ ഓമ്മപ്പെടുത്തിയതായ ഒരു സംഗതിയെകുറിച്ചാണ്. ദിവാൻജി അവർകളിൽ നിന്നു ഈ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള ആളുകൾ വളരെയെല്ലാം പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നു. ആ പ്രതീക്ഷകൾ വെറുതെ ആയിട്ടമില്ല. അദ്ദേഹം ഒരു ഊർജ്ജസ്വലമായ ഭരണകർത്താവാണ്. അദ്ദേഹം പൊതുജനങ്ങളെ ആകെ സംബന്ധിക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിലും പ്രത്യേകം, പ്രത്യേകം ചില സമുദായങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിലും ഇതിനകം വളരെയെല്ലാം പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. പല പ്രക്ഷോഭണത്തിനു അദ്ദേഹം ഉടനടിതീരുമാനം വരുത്തി. അതുപോലെതന്നെ കള്ളുമാട്ടങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യത്തിനും പെട്ടെന്നു ഒരു തീരുമാനം ഉണ്ടാക്കി. ഡെറ്റ് കൺസിലിയേഷൻ ബോർഡ്, ലാൻറ് മോർട്ടഗേജ് ബാങ്ക്, അടക്കറ്റുലേഷൻ റട്ടാക്കൽ ഇതെല്ലാം എത്രയും വേഗത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹം സാധിച്ചു. ഇങ്ങിനെ ദിവാൻജിയെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള പ്രതീക്ഷകൾ പലതും ഫലിച്ചു. എങ്കിലും ഏറ്റവും വലിയ പ്രതീക്ഷ ഇനിയും ഫലിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ജനങ്ങളുടെ അവകാശത്തിനു വേണ്ടിയുള്ള യുദ്ധത്തിൽ സാരമായ പങ്കെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു രാഷ്ട്രീയ പ്രവർത്തകനും, ഒരു രാജ്യതന്ത്രജ്ഞനും ആയ സർ ഷൺമുഖത്തിന്നു് ഇതുവരെ താൻ നടത്തിവന്നിരുന്ന വാദങ്ങളെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുവാൻ ഉള്ള അവസരം കയ്യിൽ കിട്ടുമ്പോൾ അതു ഉപയോഗിക്കുമെന്നുള്ള പ്രതീക്ഷയായിരുന്നു കൊച്ചിക്കാർക്കുണ്ടായിരുന്നതു്. ഞാൻ ഇപ്പോഴും ആ പ്രതീക്ഷക്കാരൻ തന്നെയാണ്. എന്റെ ചുറ്റുമുള്ള ചിലർ എന്നെ അപഹസിക്കുന്നുണ്ടായിരിക്കാമെങ്കിലും എന്റെ പ്രതീക്ഷ അതുതന്നെയാണ്. ഇന്ത്യക്കാർ ഡെമോക്രസിക്കു വാദിക്കയല്ലാതെ അതു വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ഇഷ്ടപ്പെടുകയില്ല എന്നു വെള്ളക്കാർ ആക്ഷേപിക്കുവാൻ ഇടവരുത്തു്. കൊച്ചിയിലും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും ഉത്തരവാദഭരണവാദികളായ രണ്ടു രാജ്യതന്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാരാണു് ഇപ്പോൾ ദിവാൻജിമാരായിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അവരുടെ കാലത്തു കൊച്ചിയിലും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും ഉത്തരവാദഭരണം നടപ്പാക്കിയില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഇന്ത്യാക്കാരുടെ ഡെമൊക്രസി വാദത്തിനു അതു വലിയ ആക്ഷേപമായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു ദിവാൻജി അവർകളെ ബോധിപ്പിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു് (ഹിയർ, ഹിയർ) ഇവിടെ ചിലർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ഭരണം ഒഴിഞ്ഞു പോകുന്നതിനു മുമ്പെങ്കിലും ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം നടപ്പാക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു്. എന്നാൽ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു് അതല്ല. അദ്ദേഹം ഇവിടെ ഭരണത്തിൽ ഇരിക്കുമ്പോൾതന്നെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം നടപ്പാക്കി അതിന്റെ അടിസ്ഥാനം ഉറപ്പിച്ചു അതിനെ ശരിപ്പെടുത്തിയശേഷം പോകുവാൻ ഉത്സാഹിക്കണമെന്നാണ്. മദ്രാസിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ മന്ത്രിസ്ഥാനം കയ്യേറ്റിട്ടുള്ള എല്ലാവരും കൊച്ചിയിലുള്ളവരേക്കാൾ കേമന്മാരാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതിനെ വിശ്വസിക്കുവാൻ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു നിവൃത്തിയില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ പ്രസിഡൻറു അവർകളോടു പറയുന്നു. ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം ഏല്പിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു ശരിക്കു നിവ്വഹി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ക്കുവാൻ കഴിവുള്ള ആളുകൾ ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കും. അഥവാ, വല്ല കുറവുകളും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാൽതന്നെയും പ്രാപ്തനും, നയജ്ഞനും ആയ ഒരു ദിവാൻജി ഇവിടെ ഇരിക്കുമ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു ആ കുറവുകളെ മാറ്റുവാനും സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഇതുകൊണ്ടല്ലാതെ ഇവിടത്തെ ആക്ഷേപങ്ങൾ ഒരിക്കലും അവസാനിക്കുകയില്ല. ഗവൺമെൻറു പലതും സദുദ്ദേശത്തോടുകൂടിതന്നെ ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാലും ഈ ആക്ഷേപത്തിനു ഒരു ശമനം വരുകയില്ല. ശമനം വരണമെങ്കിൽ അതിനു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞ ഒരു ഒറ മരുന്നുമാത്രമേയുള്ളൂ. ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം മാത്രമല്ലാതെ വേറെ ഒരു മാർഗ്ഗവും ഇതിനില്ല. ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയെ ആകർഷിക്കുവാൻ മാത്രമാണ് പ്രധാനമായി ഞാൻ ഈ അവസരത്തെ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതു്. പ്രധാനമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയെക്കുറിച്ചുകൂടി അല്പം പറയാനുണ്ട്. ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ സ്റ്റാഫ് സിലക്ഷൻ ബോർഡ് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയതിൻെറ ശേഷം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ഫലങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി പ്രതിവാദിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. സ്റ്റാഫ് സിലക്ഷൻ ബോർഡ് അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ സമുദായ പ്രാതിനിധ്യത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ള ചട്ടങ്ങളിൽവെച്ചു ഏറ്റവും നേരെയുള്ളതും എളുപ്പമുള്ളതും ആണെന്നു ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. എങ്കിലും അതിൻെറ പ്രവർത്തനം ശരിക്കാണോ എന്നു സംശയമുണ്ട്. ദിവാൻ പറഞ്ഞ കണക്കുകൾ പ്രഥമദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ തോന്നുന്നമാതിരിതന്നെ തൃപ്തികരമാണെന്നു പറയുവാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ലാത്ത ഒരു സംഗതി ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. അതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ച നാലഞ്ചു ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ ഞാൻ ചോദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഹജൂരാഫീസിൽ നിന്നുതന്നെയാണ് അതിനുള്ള ഉത്തരം ശേഖരിക്കേണ്ടതു്. അനന്തരം ചിലപ്രാവശ്യം നിയമനങ്ങൾ നടത്തിയതിൽ ഇത്രയിത്ര ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾവീതം ഇന്നയിന്ന സമുദായക്കാർക്കു പോയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. എത്ര ആളുകളെവീതം ഓരോ സമുദായത്തിൽനിന്നും നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള കണക്കുകൂടി എടുത്താലെ സമുദായനീതി നടന്നോ ഇല്ലയോ എന്നു തീർച്ചയാക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കയുള്ളൂ. ടീർഹ ഒഴിവുകളിലെല്ലാം ചില സമുദായക്കാരേയും ചുരുങ്ങിയ ഒഴിവുകളിൽ മാത്രം മറ്റുള്ളവരേയും വയ്ക്കുന്നതായാൽ നിയമിക്കപ്പെട്ട ആളുകളുടെ സംഖ്യ ഒടുവിൽ പറഞ്ഞ സമുദായങ്ങളിൽ വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞുപോകാൻ ഇടയുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ടു സ്റ്റാഫ് സിലക്ഷൻ ബോർഡിൻെറ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിൽ ദിവാൻജി പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു എനിക്കു അപേക്ഷയുണ്ട്. ദിവാൻജിയുടെ കാലാവധി നീട്ടിയതിൽ എൻെറ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിനുള്ള അഹ്ലാദം ഇവിടെ പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** *(Diwan Peishkar)*.—Mr. President, Sir, It would be obviously impossible within the short space of time allotted to the Government Members for reply to deal with the various points raised by the Hon'ble Members of this

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

House. The ground to be traversed is very extensive and the process of singling out points for reply, from a series of admirable speeches, is very difficult. I shall therefore content myself speaking on behalf of the Department which I have the honour to be in charge of, to refer in particular to some of the points which have special relation to my department and incidentally probably to one or two main things which affect general Administration also. I take that kind of line of reply for the additional reason that many of the points which have been urged here as general points, form the subject matter of cut motions also. I believe the House will agree with me that the proper time for a fulldress discussion on those points would be when we deal with the subject-matter of those cut motions.

Speaking on behalf of the Revenue Department on the demand for the 12 per cent remission, the point has been very generally touched upon and that by a few of the Members here. There are a number of cut motions upon this matter and I think I will be on more proper grounds if I deal with that motion at length then. I believe that was also what was in the mind of the Hon'ble Members because they did not elaborate the point but contented themselves with the general observation that a remission should be granted this year also.

But I wish to deal in detail on the criticism in the matter of giving permission for constructing places of religious worship. It is a very serious matter, and I happen to be intimately connected with this question because it is my Department that makes the final recommendation in the matter after enquiry. It would seem from the speeches of two Hon'ble Members that a special line of policy is pursued by Government with regard to churches. I hasten to disabuse the House in respect of this matter. There is absolutely no special policy in regard to churches. The question can arise, if it can arise at all, only whenever any community raises the question and makes a prayer for a place of religious worship. I may say without fear of contradiction that there are no special rules governing the grant of permission for churches. The rules apply to all people who want to construct places of worship. It applies to temples, churches, mosques, synagogues and Sikh Gurudwaras, and one of the columns in the application form asks the applicant to state whether there is any other place of worship within half a mile of persons holding different persuasions. It has been my invariable experience that there is no application which states that there is a place within half

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

a mile and then asks for permission in spite of it. But after enquiry in some cases it is not found to be true. The refusal is thus very often justified on the ground that there was an initial mis-statement. The Government policy has been throughout uniform and consistent. It is not a policy arrived at by the present Government. I may inform the House that to my certain knowledge, that policy existed even in the year 1029. The policy is thus of hoary antiquity, and has been confirmed by unqualified acceptance by the people of the State. The question then is whether arguments have been placed before the House which should induce the Government to adopt a change in the policy. Now one thing must be conceded by all right thinking men, namely that there should be some restrictions in the matter of giving places for religious worship, especially in places where there are a number of communities who although they now live in perfect peace and perfect amity yet hold different religious beliefs. The task of the Government is to be strictly impartial in the demands of different communities and to prevent any such untoward events happening, as has very often happened here as well as elsewhere, both recently and in days of old. Fighting in the name of religion is no new spectacle in our country. It becomes sometimes necessary to hedge these grants, with some sort of restrictions. You must have a distance rule or no distance rule at all. There is no midway. Our experience has shown that this distance of half a mile is a sound rule.

**Mr. K. Ayyapyan** (*Ezhuvas South*).—Is there any other rule for towns?

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** (*Diwan Peishkar*).—The rule everywhere is the same.

**Mr. P. C. Varkey** (*Ernakulam North*).—Then how is it that there are complaints?

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** (*Diwan Peishkar*).—For the simple reason that other people who ought to have objected never interfered. If the people following different persuasions have no objection Government also will have no objection obviously.

**Mr. P. C. Varkey** (*Ernakulam North*).—The Hon'ble Member must admit that this rule was not existing formerly.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** (*Diwan Peishkar*).—This rule existed all along. I have seen it in 1031.

**Dr. A. R. Menon** (*Pallippuram*).—It becomes operative only if there is an objection, is it not?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** (*Diwan Peishkar*).—Yes, generally speaking. It is only when an objection from a neighbouring place of worship comes that the Government generally objects. It is only when other communities object or where other circumstances invoke interference that these rules come into play. In all these matters we should have the anchorage of a safe and dependable rule instead of leaving it to the caprice of the inquiring officer. My personal experience is that these unfortunate quarrels are never the monopoly of any one community. An attempt was made by the Jacobite community to establish a Church in Irinjalakuda. The main objection came from the Roman Catholics. An attempt of the Roman Catholics to etablish a church at Mukkattukara was objected to by the Syrian Christians on the ground that it is within half a mile. An attempt of the Mussalmans to establish a mosque at Perumthuruthy was objected to both by the Hindus and the Christians on the ground that their prayers are noisy and it is within the half mile limit. The Roman Catholics wanted to construct a particular church in one Sy. No. in Ernakulam but the Latin Christians purchased the Sy. No. close by and wanted to build a church there. My submission therefore is that for safeguarding the jarring interests of these warring communities the Government should have a safe rule. This has been the rule existing all along. But I may, however, assure the Hon'ble Members that with respect to towns it will be considered whether we cannot make some relaxation in rules in individual cases, on their merits. It should not be taken that this is a promise at all. My submission is that the House should not get away with the idea that Government are creating troubles in this matter. Even the followers of one religion quarrel among themselves, when it comes to a question of different persuasions. Until a better mentality develops itself the rule ought to remain there.

Then another matter which was adverted to is of a less controversial nature, viz., the necessity for developing fisheries which was the point referred to by the Hon'ble Member Mr. Sankunni. There is absolutely no difference of opinion between that member and ourselves and Government cannot be charged of being unmindful of the interests of these communities. If at times you notice a restraint in the assurances given by the Government, it is only the restraint every responsible administration takes before it embarks upon new schemes. The Advisory Committee itself took that matter up. It asked the Fishery Inspector who is in immediate charge of the Department to frame a practical and workable scheme. He prepared

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

a scheme and that was forwarded with my remarks to Government and all those steps that could be taken in hand immediately have been taken by Government. Loans have been sanctioned for the purpose of improving the nets and other fishing tackle, if asked for on proper security. I was asked to form a co-operative society in consultation with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. We did our best and a society is about to be formed to be worked under the immediate supervision of the patrol officers. Government have already provided for the improvement of the fish curing yards. It has already made some arrangements for bunding up areas for use by the fishermen. On the question of deep sea fishing even the Inspector was not sanguine of the results. It is a matter on which the Madras Government itself has not come to a definite decision. That matter was therefore left in abeyance. All that can be done has been done and Government do not propose to rest content with that and when funds are available and when necessary data have deen gathered it will be time to take up expensive and expansive schemes. I have asked the petrol officers to collect statistics with regard to deep sea fishing, edible and non-edible fishes and the quantity of catch available for outside markets. When that comes, we will have some materials to see wether some more encouragement can be given. Unless that is done, more expensive schemes ought to wait. Then another reference was made to the attempt made by the Government to tax prawn fishing, when the economic depression continues. The Hon'ble Member for Narakkal will not be happy until he gets it out. There is no convincing him that a proper case exists for taxation. The matter is in the Select Committee stage in this House. The committee has submitted a report; the majority of the Committee thinks that there is nothing inequitable in imposing a licence fee for this extraordinary kind of fishing.

It was said that no provision has been made this year for the Shanmukham canal.

**Mr. K. S. Manickam** *(Irinjalakuda).*—The Diwan insisted that a four per cent return should be guaranteed. I think it should be lessened. It is not only Irinjalakuda that is being benefitted but other areas also.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** *(Diwan Peishkar).*—I think you must congratulate him for having insisted upon proper safeguards for spending capital money. If it is a criticism for safeguarding the expenditure. . . . . .

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

**Mr. K. S. Manickam** (*Irinjalakuda*).—It is only a request for lessening the rigour.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** (*Diwan Peishkar*).—I shall place before the House a few facts. I was connected with this from the very beginning. I asked the leaders whether they will guarantee reasonable return on the investment. All the leaders were present and they stated that they can guarantee at least 12 thousand rupees.

**Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen** (*Kattur*).—Why do you want the guarantee.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** (*Diwan Peishkar*).—For the capital expenditure. There must be at least a chance to get 4 per cent. So long as it is capital expenditure Government must have some guarantee of a reasonable return. They stated they are prepared to guarantee 12,000 rupees in the first instance. On the strength of that assurance I was asked to take kychits but then the amount came to 2,500 and the number that promised to execute the kychit dwindled into four.

**Dr. A. R. Menon** (*Pallippuram*).—What will be the rate of interest at 12,000?

**Mr. K. Achyutha Menon** (*Diwan Peishkar*).—It will be about 10 per cent.

There were twelve people who were prepared to give a guarantee. When it became time to take kychits there were only two people and the figure came to 2000. There was a local inspection by the Diwan and they again stated that they were prepared to give a guarantee.

**Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen** (*Kattur*).—Is it a profit Government wants?

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** (*Diwan Peishkar*).—Yes. Certainly it is Government money that is being spent and they want to ensure that it will not result in a loss. This capital undertaking of great magnitude should not result in a loss. The argument is that it will divert a large volume of trade. This will also bring in large revenue in the shape of toll. Why then are the leaders not prepared to guarantee that return?

**Mr. K. Ayyappan** (*Ezhuvas South*).—What is the guarantee?

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** (*Diwan Peishkar*).—The guarantee is a guarantee of the genuineness of the demand.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

**Mr. K. Ayyappan** (*Ezhuvas South*).—Are the Government in a position to say that the demand is genuine or not?

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** (*Diwan Peishkar*).—Supposing it is?

**Mr. K. Ayyappan** (*Ezhuvas South*).—Are you going to compel these people to pay?

**Mr. President.**—Government have to count upon them, only if the investments does not yield 4%.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew** (*Kunnamkulam*).—What is the information of the Government with regard to the percentage that they will get?

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** (*Diwan Peishkar*).—My figures come to less than 4 per cent. Mine is only a forecast.

**Mr. K. Ayyappan** (*Ezhuvas South*).—How will you realise this amount?

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** (*Diwan Peishkar*).—By getting the kychit executed. I shall myself see that the kychit is prepared in such a way that the amount is not lost even if it is produced before a court of law.

**Mr. K. Ayyappan** (*Ezhuvas South*).—Can you not do this in some other form? You are simply penalising a few people.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** (*Diwan Peishkar*).—It is simply asking a few people to be more careful in their suggestions.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew** (*Kunnamkûlam*).—You are asking a people to execute a kychit on behalf of people who are going to enjoy it.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** (*Diwan Peishkar*).—Yes, because you cannot deal with all the people individually and collectively, in such matters.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew** (*Kunnamkulam*).—Are the people benefited?

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** (*Diwan Peishkar*).— These 12 people or some of them who made the demand on behalf of all should execute the kychit, on behalf of all.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew** (*Kunnamkulam*).—One thousand people submit a petition. Are you going to take a kychit from a few people? I don't know how that can be effected?

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** (*Diwan Peishkar*).—The kychit will be for all by a few in their personal capacity as well.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

**Mr. President.**—The question is with regard to the amount and not the kychit.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** *(Diwan Peishkar).*—With respect to one matter more I have to say something, i. e., the Mattancheri hospital. It is not correct to say that it is an inadequate building. The hospital is really an ornament to any Government. I have seen in company with the Chief Engineer and the Chief Medical Officer the whole of the building. To a layman like myself it seemed to be an excellent specimen of modern hospital construction. The compound has to be improved but it will be done as soon as funds permit. Compared with other hospitals in the State, it seems to posses all necessary conveniences.

**Mr. M. V. Cherian** *(Mattancherri).*—Which hospital, please?

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** *(Diwan Peishkar).*—The Male Hospital. I think the Hon'ble Member referred to that. I speak subject to correction. With regard to the wire fencing, I don't think it is so bad as that. Wire fencing is effective up to a certain point. The question of compound wall is only a question of time. The paramba will never lie in that state. It will be levelled up. I really have nothing more to add.

With regard to the amalgamation of the Archaeological Department with Revenue I appreciate the compliment to me, but I doubt the wisdom of the step. That department attempts at the reorganisation and reconstruction of a nation's past history, by excavations and by deciphering inscriptions and monuments, a task which cannot be done by a man, who is not also an expert. The Archaeological expert will have to be there with his staff, in any case.

**Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar** *(Comptroller of Accounts).*—Sir, at page 5 of the Budget a slight error has occurred in the assets and liability Statement. Against sinking fund instead of two lakhs forty-eight thousand it should be 3,48,600 plus 82,500 and corresponding reductions should be made against 5(c) under investments. This is only an error crept in printing.

In replying to the general discussion of the Budget I have only to explain the various fluctuations that have been observed in the past and in the current year and as anticipated in the next year. In the first place I want to submit that we are dealing with 9 digits and difference between actuals and anticipations a little over a lakh have to be condoned. We have

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

prepared our estimates entirely upon anticipations both in the revised estimate and in the estimate for the ensuing year. No Hon'ble Member has so far said that the difference was so very great that it would deserve a condemnation of the anticipations. It is only a lakh that has to be condoned. Differences have been very amply explained both in the memorandum and in my speech, and if any Hon'ble Member in his speech has cared to characterise the Budget as having been prepared without any regard to the actuals I have only to say that their own speeches were prepared prior to mine. Another argument is that the receipts have been overestimated and the expenditure underestimated. I have got with me statistics for the past ten years [please see my memorandum]. Those figures would show that the estimating has been done with due regard to the actuals. In 1101 the total receipts came to 71 lakhs and the disbursements to 65 lakhs. That year the budget was framed to a surplus of 6·9 lakhs. Similarly you will find from 1101 to 1111, fluctuations vary between 1 and 6 lakhs. There is no argument put forward that the overestimating was unusual in respect of these two or three years.

With regard to absence of provision in the various departments we can only say that if the various demands of the Hon'ble Members are provided for, there can be no end to our resources. As the Hon'ble Member for South Ezhuvas has sufficiently explained, no budget can satisfy all the members because you will find that individual members have demanded enhanced grants in various sections. If all the enhanced grants were to be totalled and the budget prepared accordingly, the receipt side would have to go up to 10 digits.

With regard to loans. These loans are repayable after a a period of 15 or 20 years.

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Pallippuram).*—Have you understood our point?

**Mr. President.**—From the explanation you can find out whether he has understood it or not.

**Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar** *(Comptroller of Accounts).*—There is an apprehension that the raising of the loan would involve additional taxation. Certainly loans would involve taxation. When we raised the loan we never intended that sufficient provision will be made for repayment of the loan from the general revenues and that the sinking fund by itself

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

will be sufficient for the repayment of the loan. We cannot anticipate what taxation will be required. We may anticipate to raise a loan of three crores up to which no provision will be necessary from new taxation. Again there are in British India and other places what are called interminable loans. In this case the loans are never repaid. Only debt charges by way of interest will be paid. I will only say that the loans can never be anticipated to be paid solely from the general revenues. Government themselves will be able to repay their loan in the course of the prescribed period and for all practical purposes we have also provided sufficient sinking fund viz. 1 per cent on 75 lakhs. It is anticipated that by the time the first loan is to be repaid there would be one third of the amount available by the taking into account compound interest on Sinking Fund investments from year to year.

Then with regard to the reduced contribution for leave allowance it may be understood that leave when found absolutely necessary will never be refused. The reduction made is applicable to the ensuing year only. Having regard to the other expenditure Government considered it necessary to reduce the leave allowance whereby as small an expenditure as is possible should only be incurred by the various Heads of Departments. It is never intended to be a permanent measure restricting the right of taking leave by Government servants.

Then with regard to the contribution for depreciation it does not find a place in the Budget against capital charges. I think a difference should be made between capital works undertaken by Government and capital charges incurred by a Company. In respect of a company interest on capital ought to be provisionally allocated from the gross revenues. If the capital is overestimated the dividend would be naturally less. The main principle underlying the distribution of dividend of a company is that capital must stand considerably reduced whereby the capacity of distributing dividends must be sufficiently reasonable. The capital requires therefore to be depreciated having regard to its capacity to pay. On the other hand, we provide sufficient funds every year from the gross revenues itself for replacing depreciation by way of revenue expenditure of a capital nature, i. e. no capital expenditure not involving large amounts are incurred from the gross revenue of the concern itself. I understand that for the railways we are not providing any large expenditure by way of depreciation. Whenever a large expenditure has to be incurred, the principle has been to go in for such an expenditure by means of a loan against which provision will be made by way of sinking fund.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

**Mr. K. T. Mathew** *(Kunnamkulam).*—Is there any objection to provide for these interminable loans.

**Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar** *(Comptroller of Accounts).*—We have no such loans.

**Mr. President.**—We have no objection but the people won't subscribe for it.

**Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar** *(Trichur North).*—Is it not the practice to provide for depreciation in other places?

**Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar** *(Comptroller of Accounts).*—It is only in the Government of India. But there the funds are separate. The Railway earnings would be able to provide for a fund for depreciation as well as to pay back to the general revenues some contribution and thereby avoiding further loans.

**Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar** *(Trichur North).*—Mysore has got a railway depreciation account.

**Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar** *(Comptroller of Accounts).*—They may not have a sinking fund then. With regard to the potteries it is true that they were not able to show a profit because it was only recently rehabilitated and the manufacture started only 9 or 10 months ago.

**Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar** *(Trichur North).*—I believe you value the stock.

**Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar** *(Comptroller of Accounts).*—Yes. But it is much less than the sale value. The value of the finished articles was fixed at a rate less than the actual cost in certain cases. That is usually done when there is a large stock.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Urakam).*—May I know what is the principle in valuing the stock?

**Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar** *(Comptroller of Accounts).*—Ordinarily it will be valued at the market price. Some times we value it at less than the market price. There are three kinds of valuation (1) the actual value of the articles (2) the prevailing market rate and the third value which is less than the market rate.

I do not think that I have anything more to say.

**Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar** *(Secretary to Government).*—Sir, as the Land Revenue Member just now stated many of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

demands made on the floor of this House during general discussion will come up for consideration when cut motions are moved. But I would like to make one or two observations with reference to a few of the criticisms made on the floor of this House by some of the Hon'ble Members.

So far as the demand for responsible Government is concerned, it is not a new demand and I have only to refer you to the lucid pronouncements made by the Diwan President himself during last year when a cut motion on the subject was discussed on the floor of this House. I refer to page 479 of Volume III of the Legislative Council Proceedings. There he has told you what he would be doing and what the limitations of men placed like him are in a State like this. You have to remember that we are not fighting an alien beaurocracy. The Members sitting on this side of the House are your kith and kin and the only difference is that we are not here on account of being elected by the House nor are we removable at your will and pleasure. What I want to impress upon you is that we have certain limitations so far as our constitution is concerned. These limitations have to be taken into account. In approaching this question, all that can be said has already been stated and I can only say that the demand that has been voiced forth will be borne in mind and everything that is possible would be done.

With reference to the working of the Staff Selection Board, there was some criticism. It appeared to me that there is some misapprehension. I may tell you that there is absolutely no attempt made to circumvent the rules so far as this matter is concerned. It was stated here that out of the 660 appointments made, though the communities have been given the number allotted to them by the rules, an analysis of the staff selection appointments will show that an injustice has been done. I can emphatically assert that it is not a fact.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—We will show you later on.

**Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar** *(Secretary to Government).*—I shall answer then.

As soon as the board meets, the number of vacancies reported both permanent as well as temporary coming in different grades are looked into. They divide the vacancies into three grades, Rs. 25/- and above, then between 20 and 25 and then below Rs. 20, and then allot to different communities the proportionate number which they would get. This rule holds good so far as the permanent and temporary vacancies are concerned.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I may assure you that particular attention is bestowed with reference to the duration of the vacancies also in distributing these appointments. This is a difficult matter and it may not be possible to meticulously divide these actual vacancies between the communities. It is a physical impossibility. You will realise it when probably you will work the rules yourself. The Board are striving their level best to work out the rules in the proper manner. There need not be any apprehension on the part of the members that the Board are not doing their duty properly and that they are trying to circumvent the rules that have been enacted for the working of this Board. You must also remember that the rules have been framed recently and as the Diwan himself expressed these are the simplest of rules. If after working for some time it is found that the rules have to be modified, certainly the Government will be the first to take your advice in the matter and see whether the rules have to be improved upon.

**Mr. K. Ayyappan** *(Ezhuvas South).*—Will my questions be answered in this session?

**Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar** *(Secretary to Government).*—I myself told the Hon'ble Member yesterday that if the information is available in the Huzur Office the questions will be answered.

Again a serious charge was made against the Police Department by the Hon'ble Member for North Ezhuvas. He was impeaching the whole Department from the Commissioner downwards. It is a very serious charge to make and without facts and figures to make such a sweeping remark is, I must submit, very unfair. He stated that there is no security in the land, that people cannot walk in the streets and that we must overhaul the whole Department. If any specific instances are brought to the notice of the Government, immediate action will be taken. But without pointing out specific instances if this sweeping remark is levelled against a whole Department I can only say that it is most unfair and uncharitable.

There is one other matter to which reference was made by Mr. Poppatlal. He was saying something about landing charges. There is clearly a mis-apprehension. What was mentioned by the Diwan was that there was a feeling in some of the consignees that the landing charges are exorbitant and that it would be cheaper to import their goods through Madras although they may have to pay an increased railway freight. That does not mean that the value of the goods imported has become high.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Take for instance Coimbatore. There are some merchants there who think that it would be cheaper not to import their goods through the Cochin Harbour but through the Madras Harbour though the Railway freight is much higher from Madras to Coimbatore, because of the prohibitive charges that some of the private agencies here charge for the landing of goods from the steamer to the Ernakulam Railway station. It is only this thing that made the President to make those observations on this matter.

**Mr. T. K. Nayar** *(Pazhayannur).*—What about the Railway freight from Calicut to Coimbatore and from Ernakulam to Coimbatore?

**Mr. President.**—I shall speak about it.

**Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar** *(Secretary to Government).*—There is one other matter and that is with regard to the monopoly of tobacco; it was explained by the Excise Member that all the shops were individually put up for sale, and it was only under the special circumstances that the Department had to grant such a monopoly. In this connection I may tell this House that it was not on account of any peculiar liking for having more money that this thing was done. So far as the Tobacco monopoly was concerned, there was an offer for over Rs. 50,000 more than what the Government has been offered now, if monopoly for the whole State were to be granted. But that was refused by the Government.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി *(Muslims).*— മൊണോപ്പൊളിയായിക്കൊടുക്കുവാൻ തീച്ചയാക്കിയതിനു കാരണമെന്താണ്?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കണ്ണൻ നായർ*(Secretary to Government).*— നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ വന്നതുകൊണ്ടു. ഓരോ ഷാപ്പുകളായി വിളിച്ചു നോക്കിയിട്ടും എടുക്കുവാൻ ആളില്ലാതിരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ് അതിന്നിടയായിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി *(Muslims).*— ഒറ ഒറയായി വിളിച്ചിട്ടും വിളി കേൾക്കുവാൻ ആളില്ലാതിരുന്നുവോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കണ്ണൻ നായർ *(Secretary to Government).*— പലതവണയായി വിളിച്ചു നോക്കിയിട്ടും ഒരാൾ ഉറപ്പിക്കയിൽ കൂറവായതുകൊണ്ടാണ് അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്തതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി *(Muslims).*— സംഖ്യ കുറഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ടാണൊ മൊണോപ്പൊളി കൊടുത്തതു്?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കണ്ണൻ നായർ *(Secretary to Government).*— കോമ്പെറിഷൻ ഉണ്ടെന്നു ഗവമ്മെൻറിനു അനുഭവത്തിൽ മനസ്സി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ലായി. അതുകൊണ്ടായിരിക്കണം ഏഴായിരം ഉറുപ്പികയിൽ കൂടുതൽ കൊടുക്കുവാൻ ഇടയായതു.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃട്ടി *(Muslims)*.— കച്ചവടക്കാർ തമ്മിൽ മത്സരം നടക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ സംഖ്യ വർദ്ധിക്കുകയില്ലേ?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കണ്ണൻ നായർ *(Secretary to Government)*.— കോമ്പറീഷൻ വന്നാൽ സംഖ്യ കൂടുവാനേ തരമുള്ളൂ.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃട്ടി *(Muslims)*.— പെട്ടെന്നു ഗവൺമെൻറു ഇങ്ങനെ പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചതു കുറച്ചു കഷ്ടമാണ്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കണ്ണൻ നായർ *(Secretary to Government)*.— പെട്ടെന്നു പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചതല്ല. എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാർ പല വിധത്തിലും പ്രയത്നിച്ചിട്ടും സാധിക്കാഞ്ഞതു കൊണ്ടാണ് ഇങ്ങനെ ചെയ്തതു.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃട്ടി *(Muslims)*.— ഗവൺമെൻറിനോടു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു മേലിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ നടക്കുവാൻ ഇടവരുത്തു എന്നാണ.

മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡൻറു :— ഓർഡർ, ഓർഡർ.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കണ്ണൻ നായർ *(Secretary to Government)*.— മൊണോപ്പൊളി കൊടുക്കുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായമാണെങ്കിൽ ഇതിനേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ സൌകര്യമുള്ള ഒരുസന്ദർഭം ഇതിനു മുൻപു തന്നെ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. പക്ഷെ, വാസ്തവത്തിലുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശം അതല്ല.

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Pallippuram)*.— Why did you not give it to them?

**Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar** *(Secretary to Government)*.— Because giving of monopoly is not in the interests of the people. I shall reserve my reply with reference to the other topics when they are moved by way of cut motions.

Before I sit down I thank the Hon'ble Member for Arayas and Valas for congratulating me on my promotion to this place. He expects that I would be following the footsteps of my predecessor. I shall try my level best to do that and with the co-operation and support of the non-official members of this House I expect to succeed.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri)*.—We expect even better things.

**Mr. President.**—I would not have thought it necessary to say anything by way of concluding remarks but for one or two doubts raised in the minds of the Hon'ble Members regarding

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a few points. Prominent attention was drawn to the provision that we are making for Sinking Fund on our public debts. In fact I am very anxious that on this point there should be no misapprehension at all and that there should be perfect understanding of the Government's position because on the nature of our sinking fund depends our financial credit on the market. We have a debt of 75 lakhs of rupees raised at 5 per cent. Subsequently we raised another public loan to the extent of 30 lakhs and we propose to take a further loan of about 37½ lakhs from the Government of India also. So far as the public debt of 75 lakhs is concerned from the inception of the loan provision has been made for a sinking fund at the rate of 1 per cent every year, the loan becoming mature at the end of 20 or 25 years. It will be seen that the provision at the rate of one per cent is considered to be a satisfactory provision. If you calculate this one per cent for 25 years it will not yield all this 75 lakhs; in other words at the end of the 25 years we will not be in a position to repay the entire loan of 75 lakhs from the sinking fund but that is never expected of any Government. For one thing this amount was raised not for any unproductive enterprise or for meeting budget deficits but for reproductive capital enterprises. The enterprises on which this money has been spent are of such a nature that they will give an ample return so that when the time for repayment of this loan comes there would not be the slightest difficulty on the part of the Government in repaying this loan. It is quite possible that part of the loan will have to be repaid by means of conversion bonds. In other words assuming that at the termination of the period of this loan we have got 25 lakhs of rupees and we want 50 lakhs more what we would do is we will give the option to those who hold these bonds either to take back cash or re-invest it in a new loan to be issued and judging the financial stability of the Cochin Government I have not the slightest doubt that the conversion operation of that nature will meet with success. If the maturity came today I can convert the loan which is now at 5 per cent into one with 3¾ per cent interest. Therefore so far as the loan of 75 lakhs is concerned no Hon'ble Member need have any apprehension that we are not provided with adequate sinking fund.

With regard to the other two loans of 30 lakhs which was recently raised and the 37½ lakhs which we will be borrowing from the Government of India we have not so far made any distinct provision for sinking fund and in fact I deliberately did that for this reason. Now this loan of 67½ lakhs is not

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

going to be invested by us on capital expenditure on which we will get a return. We are utilising this money by way of a loan to the Harbour authorities and we have made arrangements with the Harbour authorities that they will be repaying this amount in a certain number of years at 5 per cent interest. With these annuity payments we automatically get a provision which will be more than adequate sinking fund. So far as the sinking fund provisions are concerned I may assure the Hon'ble Members that we are in the safest position that can ever be imagined.

**Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar** *(Trichur North).*—Will this interest at 5 per cent be payable with the repayment of the loan?

**Mr. President.**—It will be paid in equated annual payments. From the date of repayment the equated instalments extending over thirty years will be given to us. We will be getting more than ample amount for the liquidation of the loans of 30 and 37½ lakhs.

The Hon'ble Member Mr. Balarama Ayyar drew our attention to the fact that we are not providing for depreciation so far as Railway assets are concerned. That is correct. It is also a fact that so far as State owned and State managed Railways are concerned a corresponding depreciation is provided for. But as one who was associated with the Railway Administration of the Government of India I can give some useful information to Hon'ble Members which may allay the suspicion that we are shirking our duty in this respect. So far as the Indian Railways are concerned until the year 1924 no depreciation was provided for in Indian Railways. The practice was to meet from the revenue itself every year an adequate amount of expenditure which will keep all the depreciation assets up-to-date and in an efficient manner and that expenditure was described as distinctly relating to programmed railways so that even though there was no depreciation fund provided the theory was that at any moment if you value your assets you will find that you have been replacing sufficiently every year and that it is worth more than the original price. That was the policy until 1924. But until 1924 the Government of India had the general Budget and the Railway budget mixed together and that year it was decided to ensure the stability for general revenues and to know exactly whether there was such a stability it was necessary to divide these two accounts. Therefore the Railway budget was separated from

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the general Budget. When that was done it was thought that the Railways must be forced to work as a commercial concern and they must be made to provide a depreciation fund on a commercial scale and at the same time to make a contribution to the general revenues based on the capital expenditure. That has been introduced on the Indian Railways only from the year 1924. Even though theoretically it was introduced the subsequent experience has proved that though in the Book they have provided depreciation funds they have been carrying on by borrowing from the depreciation funds. Even though theoretically it has been provided for in practice they had no depreciation funds. I do not remember the exact figures but supposing you will find 50 crores as depreciation fund, you will also find that 30 crores have been borrowed from the depreciation fund. Even with regard to the Government of India no such depreciation fund is provided in those systems which are worked by companies. For the S. I. R. and the M. S. M. and the systems which are worked by companies and managed by them no such depreciation fund is provided because the original contracts with those companies do not provide for depreciation funds but only for taking the actual profits between the Government and the Railways. Our Railways are also worked by a contract so that today even if we decide to provide a separate depreciation fund the result will be the Railway will not take into account this fund before arriving at the profit. We have entered into this contract some time back so that we will be losing so far as the allocation of profits between the Company and the Government is concerned. For these reasons it was never thought by the Cochin Government that it was necessary to provide for depreciation funds.

The Hon'ble Member from Mattancheri referred to the question of Railway freight from the port of Cochin to certain places in the interior. This is a matter which was brought to the notice of the Government by the Chambers of Commerce both at Mattancheri and Cochin and immediately we took it up. The position is this. No doubt after the conversion of the meter gauge into broad gauge was effected a slight increase has been made by the Company in the Railway freight. I also thought that *prima facie* it was a very unjust act on the part of the Railway administration. I took it up to the notice of the Railway authorities. The facts of the situation are these. We will take for example a place beyond Shoranur, say Coimbatore. The distance from Cochin to Coimbatore is 160 miles and the distance from Calicut to Coimbatore is less,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

say 150 miles. Normally when a merchant wants to send goods from Ernakulam to Coimbatore he has to pay for 160 miles whereas from Calicut to Coimbatore he has only to pay for 150 miles. In spite of this longer distance here because there was the metre gauge system existing and it involved a transhipment at Shoranur the Company gave a reduced rate from Shoranur to Coimbatore and a preferential treatment was given to Ernakulam because there was this confusion between metre gauge and broad gauge. When that confusion was removed this preferential treatment has been taken away. It is rather difficult to say that it is an act of injustice. What the merchants want comes to this. In spite of the railway facilities so far as transhipment is concerned between Ernakulam and Coimbatore and other stations the merchants say not that an injustice has been done to Ernakulam but that injustice must be done to Calicut. In other words they say that even though the distance from Calicut to Coimbatore is 10 miles less than the distance from Cochin to Coimbatore you must charge Calicut also the same rate. That to a lay man, in spite of the in genuity of the merchants to which class I also belong does not appear to be very appealing. We found that our cause was not very strong and we had to keep mum. In fact we have got a machinery called the Railway Tribunal. Their function is to enquire into any cases of complaint and alleged preferential treatment shown by any other Railway authorities either to one place or to one particular commodity. Suppose for instance the Railway authorities show preferential treatment and thereby the trade of one station is diverted to another station. Then any merchant can by depositing Rs. 100 prefer a complaint before that tribunal. The tribunal is just like a judicial body and they make a genuine enquiry if there is any complaint, and they will move the Government of India if necessary to make an enquiry and set matters right. I told the merchants that if they thought that any preferential treatment has been shown to Calicut they could test the thing by preferring an appeal to the Railway Tribunal and immediately justice would be done. No such thing has been done. It is unfortunate that we have to suffer from the handicap of the geographical position of Ernakulam. Though the difference in distance is only ten miles it is a matter on which we cannot take any action since no injustice has been done. As a result of a closer study of the problem a great deal of the handicap is found to be due not to the slightly enhanced rate in the railway freight but to the exorbitant charges that the merchants of Mattancheri have been charging as landing charges. As a matter of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

fact I know from my own personal experience that some of the Coimbatore merchants prefer to import their machinery through the Madras Harbour rather than the Cochin Harbour, though the distance from Madras is double the distance. When I spoke to the merchants and started to make enquiries I found that the landing and other incidental expenses here which these merchants have to pay are more than double than those at Madras and that therefore it was worthwhile to import their machinery through Madras even paying the enhanced Railway freight.

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Pallippuram).*—Can nothing be done?

**Mr. President.**—As a matter of fact I must frankly state that my speech was intended as a warning to the merchants of Mattancheri and British Cochin. I did not want to offer a threat. I know that the merchants do not want a threat. I feel certain that the good sense of the merchant community can be depended upon to reduce the rates. I am hoping that by the combined efforts of the Hon'ble Member for Commerce all these difficulties will be remedied. I do not think that I have anything more to say. I have watched with keen interest the discussions here and I am sure that the House will give valuable suggestions in the course of the next few days.

**Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan** *(Mattancheri North).*—Formerly there was a special rate from Trichur to Ernakulam. The freight has since been increased. The Trichur Trade has also suffered. There are no facilities for loading or unloading in the Ernakulam Station. There are no cranes and the canals are also not navigable.

*The House rose for the day at 5-40 p. m.*

B. V. KRISHNANKUTTY MENON,

*Secretary to the Council.*

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